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2026 FESTIVAL GUIDE

THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL FUNDERS



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potluck
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VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
DANCE
FESTIVAL

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LISTEL Whistler
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view digital schedule at powellstreetfestival.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE 会長挨拶

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, it is my honour to welcome you to the 50th Annual Powell Street Festival.

Thank you for joining us for this milestone here in Paueru Gai, on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are honoured to hold this celebration of Japanese Canadian arts and culture in Paueru Gai, the birthplace of our Festival and a historic centre of the Japanese Canadian community. Our Festival exists in the context of the community's forced displacement by the Canadian government in 1942, as well as broader narratives of displacement of Indigenous peoples who have held relationships with these lands since time immemorial and of the communities who currently call the area home. In returning for the Festival each summer, we're mindful of these legacies and are honoured to continue to work with and build relationships with others.

This Festival weekend, we're excited to present a packed slate of free programming in and around Oppenheimer Park, full of music, dance, martial arts, and more. This Festival features an expanded program including stories from the past 50 years of the Powell Street Festival as celebrated through our recently launched book and exhibition, presentations of JCLS-funded projects, and our new Paueru Gai Ondo. Coming back are perennial favourites like the newly minted Shig Hirai Sumo Tournament, and, of course, taiko throughout the weekend.

Our food, community, craft, and marketplace booths this year similarly feature both new and returning offerings; from Salmon BBQ to handmade jewelry, you're sure to find something that speaks to you (or your stomach). You can find Festival merchandise at our Sales tent, but be sure to visit before it sells out! Last year, we sold out the lottery for the first time in Festival history, and we appreciate your support as we try for a repeat with our grand prize of flights to Tokyo!

It is only with the support of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, festivalgoers and staff, that we can share in Festival. By wearing Festival merchandise, purchasing lottery tickets, donating, volunteering, or simply attending, your support sustains us as we work to carry on the legacy of the Powell Street Festival for the next 50 years. Whether it's your first festival or your 50th, I want to thank you for choosing to spend your long weekend here with us in Paueru Gai. Enjoy!

— Russell Chiong, Powell Street Festival Board President

理事会、スタッフ、ボランティアを代表し、節目となる第50回パウエル祭に皆さまをお迎えできることを大変光栄に思います。

遥か昔からこの地と深い関係を築いてきたマスキアム族、スコーミッシュ族、スレイ・ワートゥース族の未譲渡の領土であり、私たちの祭りの始まった場所、そして日系カナダ人コミュニティの歴史的な中心地であるパウエル街にて、この記念すべき節目を共に祝うためにお集まりいただき、ありがとうございます。私たちの祭りは、1942年にカナダ政府によって日系カナダ人が強制移動させられた歴史、そして先住民族や現在この地域に暮らすコミュニティが経験してきた様々な「居場所の喪失」という、より広い歴史的背景の中に存在しています。毎年の夏、この場所に戻るにあたり、私たちはこれらの歴史を心に留め、ダウンタウン・イーストサイド近隣の皆さまと協力し、関係を築きながら、コミュニティをつなぐ豊かな文化体験を共有できることを誇りに思っています。

パウエル祭の週末には、オープンハイマー公園とその周辺を中心に、音楽、ダンス、芸術パフォーマンス、武道など、多彩な無料プログラムが目白押しです。今年のフェスティバルでは、最近発刊された書籍や展示を通じて振り返るパウエル祭50年の歩み、日系カナダ人歴史遺産協会の助成を受けたプロジェクトの発表、そして「パウエル街音頭」の披露など、プログラムをさらに充実させてお届けします。また、新たにその名を冠した「シゲ・ヒライ相撲大会」や、週末を通じて響き渡る太鼓演奏など、長年愛されてきた定番プログラムも戻ってきます。

今年のフード、コミュニティ、クラフト、マーケットプレイスの各ブースでも、お馴染みの味に加え新しい出店まで、幅広くご用意しています。サーモンBBQからハンドメイドのアクセサリまで、皆さまの心と、そしてお腹も満たす何か必ず見つかるはず。また、セールス TENT ではフェスティバル限定グッズを販売しておりますので、売り切れる前にぜひお立ち寄りください！ 昨年はパウエル祭の歴史上初めて宝くじが完売いたしました。今年も大賞、東京への往復航空券を目指して、皆さまの温かいご支援をいただけますと幸いです。

パウエル祭へお越しくださる皆さま、そしてスポンサー、寄付者の皆さま、ボランティア、スタッフの支えがあってこそ、私たちはこのパウエル祭を実現することができます。限定グッズの着用、宝くじの購入、ご寄付、ボランティア活動、あるいはプログラムへの参加そのものが、パウエル祭の伝統を次の50年へと受け継いでいくための大切な力となります。今回初めてご参加の方も、50回すべてにご参加くださった方も、この週末をここパウエル街で私たちと共に過ごしていただけることに、心から感謝申し上げます。どうぞ存分にお楽しみください！

— ラッセル・チョン

2026

50 POWELL STREET FESTIVALS!



1st Powell Street Festival Tamio Wakayama, 1977

Welcome to the 50th Powell Street Festival!

Fifty festivals after our 1977 debut, a celebration held to commemorate the Japanese Canadian Centennial, we return once again to hoist the Diamond Stage to its annual place in the corner of Oppenheimer Park. Thank you for joining us in the excitement as we honour half a century of celebrating Japanese Canadian culture, both traditional and contemporary, in the place of Paueru Gai. With over 80 programs, 60 craft and marketplace vendors, 20+ food vendors, and 10+ community booths, this year's festival is one to thoroughly enjoy while reveling in the nostalgia of Powell Street Festival. Throughout this festival guide you will find the expanded schedule and festival photographs from throughout the years blended with present day festival graphics.

To fully embrace the excitement of the 50th festival, programming has been expanded with a special thanks to the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. JCLS funding has allowed the festival to support even more representation of Japanese Canadian artists alongside the presentation of many JCLS projects. You will find Japanese Canadian Legacies Projects signified with the JCLS sakura logo.

A few things may look different on festival grounds this year, so keep an eye out for expanded programming throughout the Vancouver Japanese Language School (VJLS), including the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors, as well as the Japanese Hall. In addition to our info booth and merch booth on festival grounds, there will be a satellite info and merch booth in Japanese Hall, where you can find artist merch! Reach every corner of the festival with the Stamp Hunt, collect your initial paper at the Info Booth and gather a total of 5 stamps to reveal a colourful print of the Diamond Stage from Powell Street Festival.

This festival would not be what it continues to be today without the help of our many volunteers, coordinators, artists, and festival supporters. Thank you to everyone who has lent a hand to keep the festivities going for the past, present, and the future at Powell Street Festival.





GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

Powell Street Festival is located in Oppenheimer Park and the surrounding neighbourhood, centred around the 400 Block of Powell St. between Dunlevy and Jackson Ave.



Bike:

Utilize our free bike valet on Alexander St. and Dunlevy Ave.

Bus:

Powell St. stop (#4, #7, #209), Cordova St. stop (#3, #8, #50), and E Hastings St. (#14, #16, #20, R5).

SkyTrain:

20-minute walk from Main Street-Science World, Stadium-Chinatown Station or Waterfront Station. Check TransLink for all options, to plan your trip, or for service advisories.

Car:

Parking near the Festival is very limited. We encourage those who are able to walk, cycle, take public transport, or carshare when possible.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are expecting over 23,000 festival attendees across Festival weekend so please expect crowds, and food lines.

Free, clean drinking water is available on site, see the map and bring your water bottle! Alcohol is not served on site. Gender neutral portable toilets, handwashing stations, and wheelchair accessible portable toilets are on site including a baby changing station (see map)

Accessible seating areas are at each performance venue. A seniors tent with priority seating is at the front of Diamond Stage.

Japanese speaking MCs will be present at various stages and Japanese programming will be signified in the festival guide with an icon. Staff / volunteers who can speak multiple languages will have this noted on their nametags. Asl interpretation will be offered for opening ceremonies.

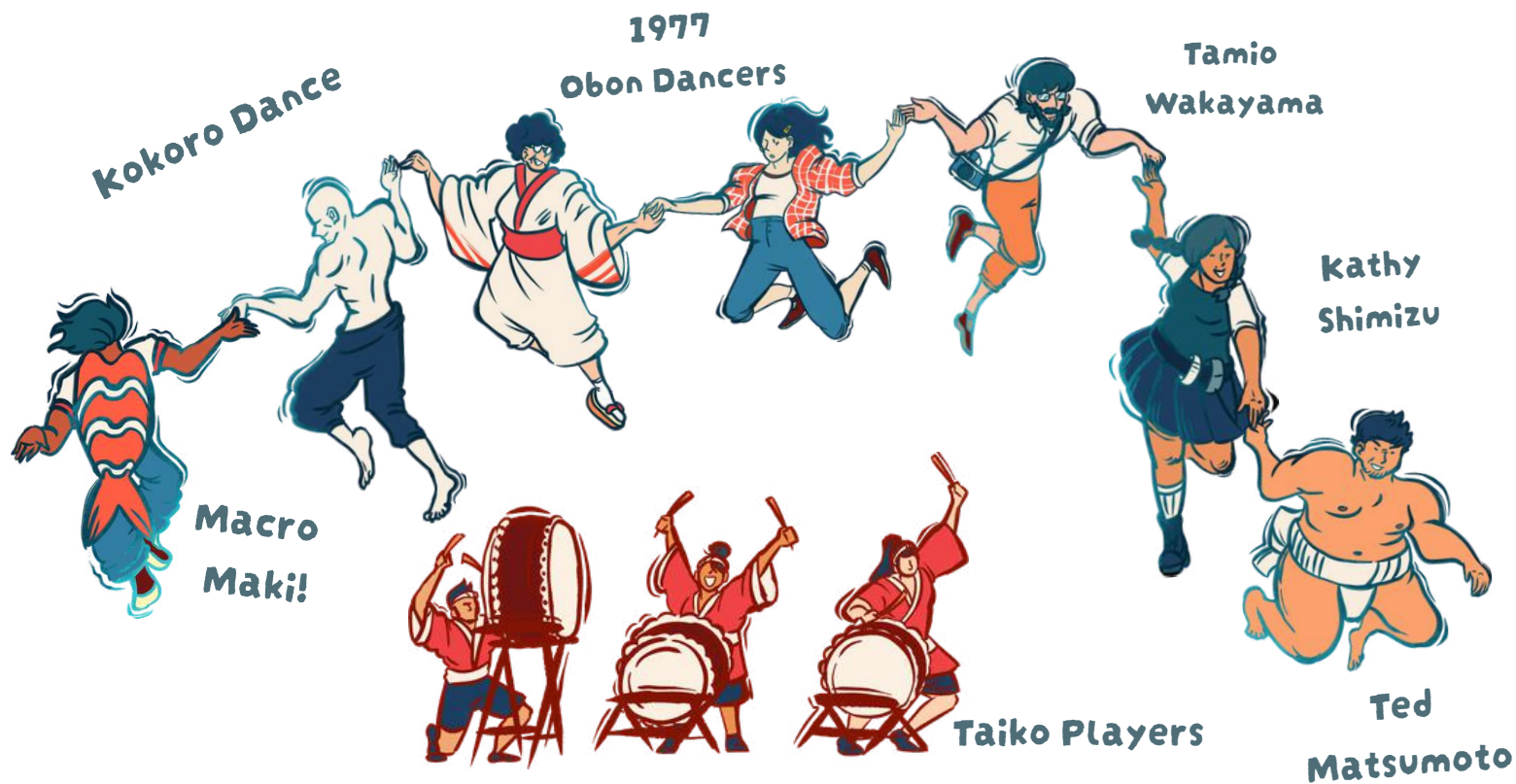


SAFETY & CONCERNS

Hospitality & Security volunteers work to ensure everyone feels safe and welcomed at the festival. If you witness or experience distress or discrimination, this team can assist with de-escalation and accessing resources. The Hospitality & Security can be recognized by orange hachimakis (headbands).

The first aid station is on site (see map). Some volunteers and staff are equipped with naloxone administration training.





MEET THE POSTER CHARACTERS

“In this poster, I used the concept of the obon dance circle and populated it with a variety of iconic figures who I believe embody the spirit of Powell Street Festival. Each figure is an integral part of the festival and represents different eras of the past 50 years” - Ella Tani

POSTER ARTIST

Ella Oriye Tani is a Chinese Japanese Canadian illustrator and casual graphic novelist based in Burnaby, BC. She is inspired by the nature of the West Coast and is drawn to blending fantasy with aspects of her local environment. Ella attended her first Powell Street Festival when she was three years old, and ever since then her family has made it a summer tradition to visit.

One of the aspects about the festival that always stood out to Ella was the annual poster artwork, which inspired her to draw and dream about one day being the festival's poster artist herself. In being chosen as the artist for the 50th anniversary, Ella is more than elated that her childhood dream has now come true.

Website: <https://www.ellaoriyetani.com/>
Instagram: @ellitearu





JOIN THE VOLUNTEER FAMILY

Powell Street Festival runs on volunteer power, year after year. Join the volunteer family and connect with the generations who keep this community thriving. Volunteer information and application can be found on our website!

FESTIVAL MERCHANDISE

Check out the 50th Annual Powell Street Festival Merch at the Festival Merchandise tent. New this year: Hats, stickers, and pins!

A satellite merchandise booth will be located in the Japanese Hall of the Vancouver Japanese Language School where you can purchase merch to support the artists who have programming in the VJLS.



**Volunteer
father &
daughter Duo**



**NEW STICKERS
AND PINS!**



BECOME A MEMBER!

Powell Street festival society is a non-profit registered charity arts organization dedicated to connecting communities through Japanese Canadian Art and Culture. Join us in this mission by become a Lifetime Member!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP - \$12

- One time purchase
- Gives you voting rights at our Annual General Meeting
- Keeps you connected to the society



You can purchase your membership at the festival, or online

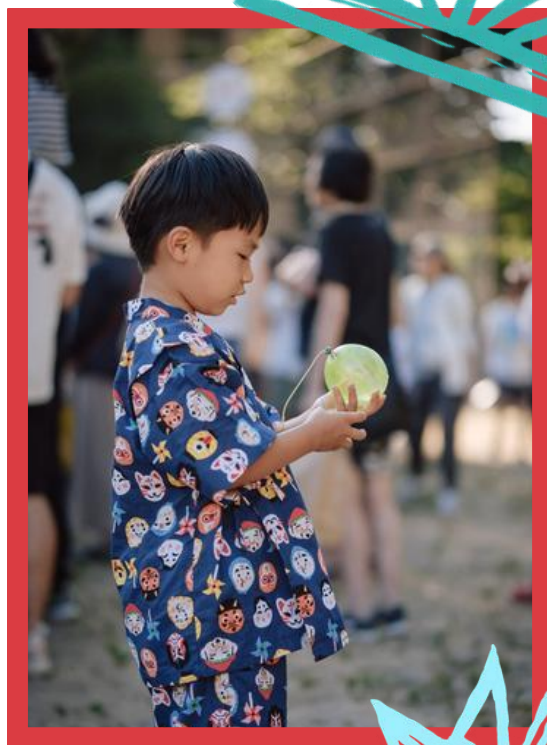




CHILDREN'S TENT & INTERACTIVE ZONE

The children's tent will be open from 12:00 – 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday in Festival grounds across from the Info Booth where children can take part in free, supervised participatory activities.

Please sign up for the following children's activities in the Interactive Zone: Tug-of-war, Watermelon Game, and the Kiai contest. In addition to participatory activities you will find face painting, origami, and Japanese crafts. Plus take pictures in in the MacroMaki sushi costumes!



Yohei Shimomae

STAMP HUNT!

In honour of the festival's 50th celebration, join the PSF50 Stamp Hunt! Explore the festival grounds and visit five stamp stations to collect each coloured layer of a special picture. Start at the Info Booth. Once you've collected all five layers, they'll reveal a colourful multi-layer print of the Japanese Canadian Centennial Stage, an iconic symbol from the very first Powell Street Festival in 1977.

Stamp stations: Info Booth, Interactive Zone, VJLS, Firehall Arts Centre, and Diamond Stage

- All marked on the map!
- Remember to stamp each layer in the 4x6 box on your stamp hunt sheet!



create your own
PSF50 stamp
memento



Follow the blue swirls on the map to complete your PSF50 stamp hunt!

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!

イベントは全て無料です



JAPANESE CANADIAN
LEGACIES PROJECTS



PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES
参加型アクティビティ



IN JAPANESE
日本語あり

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 8月1日 (日) スケジュール

TIME	DIAMOND STAGE IN PARK ダイヤモンドステージ	DEMO AREA デモエリア	STREET STAGE ストリートステージ
11:00	Opening Ceremonies (ASL)		
11:30			
12:00		Rakuichi Vancouver Mikoshi	
12:30	Tanko Bushi		Uzume Taiko Community Players
	Paueru Gai Ondo		
1:00	Vancouver Sakura Singers		
1:30		UBC Classical Bu-jutsu Club	Otowa Ryu Japanese Dance Group
2:00	APPARE Yosakoi		
2:30		Hitotose	Tamami Maitland Trio
3:00	Sawagi Taiko		
3:30		sato-ha karate do	Katari Taiko
4:00	Chibi Taiko		
4:30		Vancouver Iaido Club	Yewchi
5:00	Jason de Couto Organ Trio		
5:30			Rina and the Tohoku Min'yō Band
6:00	Southern Wave Okinawan Music and Dance Society		
6:30			



POWELL STREET
FESTIVAL SOCIETY
PROGRAMMING
パウエル祭のプログラム



MUSIC
音楽
DANCE
ダンス



MARTIAL ARTS
武術
TAIKO
太鼓

10



CEREMONIAL
日本の伝統
THEATRE
シアター



INTERDISCIPLINARY
複数のジャンルに及ぶパフォーマンス

TIMES FOR EVENTS ARE LISTED IN THEIR DESCRIPTION PAGE!

(subject to change 変更する場合があります)

FESTIVAL GROUNDS AND FIREHALL ARTS CENTRE イベント開催地とファイヤーホールアーツセンター		
INTERACTIVE ZONE インタラクティブゾーン	FIREHALL ARTS CENTRE ファイヤーホール劇場	TIME
The Children's tent will be open from 12PM -5PM		11:00
	 Japanese Canadian Place and Memory with Mata Ashita	11:30
		12:00
		12:30
	 Sharon Minemoto Quartet - Goodbye Strawberry Hill	1:00
		1:30
 Suika Wari		2:00
	Return to Paueru Gai: Panel Discussion	2:30
		3:00
		3:30
 Tug-of-war	 Chiyo: a Thousand Generations	4:00
		4:30
		5:00
		5:30
	 Kokoro Dance and Ofukami	6:00
		6:30

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PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES
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日本語あり

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 8月1日 (日) スケジュール

TIME	3RD FLOOR 3階	4TH FLOOR 4階	5th FLOOR 5階
11:00			
11:30			
12:00			
12:30	Winter Never Fails to Turn to Spring	JCCC's Sedai Oral History Workshop	Kids Sumo Workshop
1:00			
1:30	Rendezvous — Love Letters		
2:00			
2:30	Road to Justice by Art Miki		Adults Sumo Workshop
3:00			
3:30			
4:00		Discovering and Discussing Japanese Canadian Identity	Origami + Movement Workshop
4:30	Centennial Park Tea House		
5:00			
5:30	Nikkei History of Eburne, Terra Nova, & The Edwardian Cottage		
6:00			Learning and Experiencing the Japanese Performing Art of Tate
6:30	The Nail that Sticks Out	Katari Taiko History and Archive Project	



WORKSHOP
ワークショップ



PRESENTATION
プレゼンテーション



LITERARY
文学

ALL DAY PROGRAMMING

- Windphone & Paueru Gai Post Office
Room #414
- Kome's Room
Room #413
- Generations of Assimilation 🌀
Room #412
- My Great-Grandparents' Farm 🌀
Room #411
- Undertow / 潜流 🌀
Room #408
- Visible Mending: The Weight We Carry
Room #407
- Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver 
Japanese Hall, VJLS
- Sanshin Open House 
Saturday & Sunday, 12PM – 5PM
2nd floor Boardroom
- Vancouver Ikebana Association 
Japanese Hall, VJLS
- Hastings Park Interpretive Centre
Japanese Hall, VJLS

Find our Satellite Merch Booth, Display Booths, Sponsor Booths, and more Craft Vendors in the Japanese Hall of VJLS

ALL DAY SCREENINGS

- Archives in Motion
from the Return to Paueru Gai Exhibition
Room #409
- The Story of the 🌀
Powell Street Salmon Barbecue
Saturday All Day, Room #410
- Uprooted Lives: Sugar Beet Stories 🌀
Sunday All Day, Room #410

Stop by room #409
to share your
festival memories on a
well wishing Daruma

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE PROGRAMMING

This year VBT is only open for sanctuary visits, you can find displays in the Vancouver Japanese Language School! Please meet at the VBT entrance at the corner of Jackson and Powell 5 minutes before tour time.

- Vancouver Buddhist Temple Sanctuary Visit
Saturday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm and 5:00 – 5:15 pm,
& Sunday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm,
Hondo (Main Hall)



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JAPANESE CANADIAN
LEGACIES PROJECTS



PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES
参加型アクティビティ



IN JAPANESE
日本語あり

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 8月2日 (日) スケジュール

TIME	DIAMOND STAGE IN PARK ダイヤモンドステージ	DEMO AREA デモエリア	STREET STAGE ストリートステージ
11:00			
11:30	Radio Taiso with Seniors from Nikkei Home		
12:00	GO Taiko & Taiko 55		
12:30		Shorinji Kempo BC	Sansho Daiko
1:00	Marina and zmi		
1:30		Shohei Juku Aikido Canada	Kasha Konaka — Kakurenbo
2:00	Asian Persuasion All Stars		
2:30		Shig Hirai Sumo Tournament	CoSei
3:00			
3:30			
4:00			
4:30	Vancouver Okinawa Taiko		Kisyuu Japanese Calligrapher 書道家 姫洲
5:00		Bujinkan Taka-Seigi Dojo	
5:30	World Soran!		The Shorties
6:00	Lottery Grand Prize Draw	Vancouver Katori Shinto Ryu Kenjutsu	
6:30	JODAIKO		

TIMES FOR EVENTS ARE LISTED IN THEIR DESCRIPTION PAGE!

(subject to change 変更する場合があります)

FESTIVAL GROUNDS AND FIREHALL ARTS CENTRE イベント開催地とファイヤーホールアーツセンター		
INTERACTIVE ZONE インタラクティブゾーン	FIREHALL ARTS CENTRE and Courtyard ファイヤーホール劇場	TIME
The Children's tent will be open from 12PM -5PM		11:00
	Za Daikon 	11:30
		12:00
		12:30
	 When the Blossoms Fade	1:00
		1:30
 Kiai Contest		2:00
	Shishimai (lion dance): Onyōkai & Eien Hunter-Ishikawa	2:30
		3:00
	 NoriNori Unravelling...	3:30
 Tug-of-War		4:00
		4:30
	 JCLS Short Film Series	5:00
		5:30
	1910: The Uncovering	6:00
		6:30

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 8月2日 (日) スケジュール

TIME	3RD FLOOR 3階	4TH FLOOR 4階	5TH FLOOR 5階
11:00			
11:30	 Reflect and Connect to Haiku Through Your Language	 From ABCs to Activism	
12:00			 Tankokai Urasenke Vancouver Association
12:30			
1:00			 Haruye: A Life Lived
1:30			
2:00	 Stories of Nikkei Canadians	In Conversation with Leslie Shimotakahara	 Tankokai Urasenke Vancouver Association
2:30			
3:00	 North Pacific Cannery Triplex Restoration	 JCLS Family Sharing and Healing Study	 Tankokai Urasenke Vancouver Association
3:30			
4:00	 Tomoshihi Tour: letting the light shine		
4:30			
5:00	 Senda Kinoshita Nikkei Histories	 Homing Pidgin	
5:30			
6:00	 Little Temple on the Prairie		
6:30			



PRESENTATION
プレゼンテーション



LITERARY
文学



POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY
PROGRAMMING パウエル祭のプログラム



CEREMONIAL
日本の伝統



WORKSHOP
ワークショップ

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Room #414
- Kome's Room
Room #413
- Generations of Assimilation 🌀
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- My Great-Grandparents' Farm 🌀
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- Undertow / 潜流 🌀
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Saturday & Sunday, 12PM - 5PM
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& Sunday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm,
Hondo (Main Hall)



POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY PROGRAMMING

To celebrate the milestone of 50 years, Powell Street Festival society (PSFS) is highlighting festival favourites and archival works alongside JCLS projects.

Opening Ceremonies

11:00 – 12:00pm, Diamond Stage
Presented by Executive Director Sophie Yamauchi Latimer, Board President Russell Chiong. This year's opening ceremonies mark not just the start of a weekend, but the beginning of our next fifty years together.

Tanko Bushi

Saturday, 12:30 – 12:45pm,
Diamond Stage

A staple of any Matsuri! This is your chance to dance to the famous Tanko Bushi, the coal miners' song. The steps are simple, so everyone can take part, even those with two left feet! About the Leaders: Since early 1970's the members of the Otowa Ryu Japanese Dance Group have been involved in various festivals, demonstrations and many other events in the Lower Mainland and across Canada sharing and introducing the art of Japanese Dances.

Suika Wari (Watermelon Game)

Saturday, 2:00 – 2:30pm, Children's Tent
Put on a blindfold, hit the watermelon, and win a prize! Sign up in advance at the Interactive Zone!



Obon Dancers, 1977

Shig Hirai Sumo Tournament

Sunday, 2:30 – 4:00pm, Demo Area

Festival visitors are encouraged to take part in this exciting competition. To win, you must force your opponent out of the circle! But if you get forced out – or if any of your body parts other than the soles of your feet touch the dohyo (ring) - you lose! There will be two classes determined by skill and weight, all genders welcome. Pre-registration required. On Sunday, sign up in the southeast corner of Oppenheimer Park between 11:30am to 12:30pm.

The Sumo Tournament originates from the Vancouver Sumo Fun Club and is today coordinated by Vancouver Sumo Training. Emceed by Kimiko Dorey.

Return to Paueru Gai: Panel Discussion

Saturday, 2:30 – 3:30pm, Firehall Arts Centre

Contributors to the new book *Return to Paueru Gai: Fifty Years of Vancouver's Powell Street Festival* explore the festival's past, present, and future. Editor Emiko Morita and essayists Izumi Sakamoto and Julia Aoki read short excerpts, followed by a discussion moderated by Kimiko Dorey on the festival's role today and its path forward.

Emiko Morita, PSF's executive director from 2015–2024, curated the *Return to Paueru Gai* exhibition and edited its companion book; she now leads Resonate, a Downtown Eastside community art initiative. Izumi Sakamoto is a Japan-born scholar, associate professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, and founder of the Japanese Canadian Arts and Activism Project. Julia Aoki (shin-nisei) is a writer, researcher, and advocate who has led Megaphone magazine, VIVO Media Arts Centre, and PSF's programming. Kimiko Dorey (she/her) is a sansei neurodiverse educator and singer.



POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SOCIETY PROGRAMMING

Tug-of-War

Saturday and Sunday, 4:00 – 4:30pm, Children's Tent

Work together as a team and win prizes. Sign up in advance at the Interactive Zone!

Kiai Contest

Sunday, 2:00 – 2:30pm, Children's Tent

This is the time that kids can be as noisy as they want! Volunteer judges award prizes for the loudest, most creative, scariest screams and yells. Sign up in advance at the Interactive Zone!

JCLS Shorts Series

Saturday, 4:30 – 5:30pm, Firehall Arts Centre

Featuring short films by four Japanese Canadian filmmakers from across the country. The program will end with a short talkback with all artists.

Echoes of the Tide from Craig Madokoro (Vancouver, BC) is a quiet, intimate animated short set in British Columbia during WWII and follows Jitsuji, a Japanese Canadian shipbuilder, his wife and young son Hiro as their coastal life is shattered by forced internment.

Inverse Journey from Laura Shintani (Toronto, ON) follows the artist as she collects and assembles pieces of a torii gate across historically and personally significant sites: Hastings Park, Tashme, Esquimalt Gorge Park & Pavilion and Nikkei No Haka Japanese Cemetery -- culminating in the shallow waters of Ross Bay.

Ramen Boys from Jason Sakaki (Vancouver, BC) follows Kevin finally taking a chance to connect with James, the lifeguard he's admired from afar, leading to an extremely expected first kiss and a summer of love and laughter.

Rei by Connor Morton (Toronto, ON) is a documentary about the filmmaker's grandmother and her life, from internment to becoming a fashion illustrator and finishing university despite a world filled with male chauvinism and rigid gender roles.



Suika Wari 1995

Radio & Nikkei Taiso

Sunday, 11:30am – 12:00pm, Diamond Stage

In collaboration with Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing Society Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund, seniors from Sakura So and Nikkei Home will guide us through a Radio Taiso exercise routine, as well as their original exercise routine, Nikkei Taiso. Whether old or young, everyone can experience the benefits of stretching our bodies. So, join in with this easy-to-follow demonstration.

日系シニアズヘルスケア住宅協会及び日系カナダ人生存者健康福祉基金との協力のもと、さくら荘と日系ホームのシニアの皆さんが、ラジオ体操とオリジナルの「日系体操」を披露していただきます。年齢に関係なく、誰でも気軽に参加でき、身体を伸ばす心地よさを体験できます。ぜひご参加ください。



CEREMONIAL



Rakuichi Vancouver Mikoshi 晩香坡神輿の会楽一

Saturday, 12:00 – 12:30pm, Demo Area

Rakuichi plays Ohayashi, the traditional Japanese musical accompaniment for Matsuri, using Taiko, Fue (Japanese flute), and Kane (Japanese gong). At the same time, they perform Shishi-Mai (Japanese Lion Dance), a symbol of good health and fortune. After the performance, they carry Mikoshi, portable shrines, together with volunteers and visitors. Those interested in the Japanese festival atmosphere are warmly invited to come and enjoy Omatsuri together.

Rakuichi is a Japanese community group dedicated to carrying and caring for a Mikoshi, portable Shinto shrine that serves as the vehicle of a divine spirit during festivals. Formed in 2002 to steward a Mikoshi donated from Japan in 1985, we participate in local events including Powell Street Festival. Rakuichi also performs Shishi-Mai (lion dance) and now proudly carries a newly built Mikoshi crafted in Vancouver with festival visitors.

Tankokai Urasenke Vancouver Association (Tea Ceremony)

Sunday, 12:00 – 4:00pm, Tatami Room in VJLS

The Tankokai Urasenke Vancouver Association promotes the practice of the Japanese Way of Tea through lessons, demonstrations, and public events throughout the year. We invite you to participate in an authentic tea service in the tranquil tatami room on the VJLS rooftop. All guests will be served tea and a sweet. Please sign up in advance at the Information Booth (at least 30 minutes prior to ceremony time).

Vancouver Buddhist Temple Sanctuary Visit バンクーバー仏教会本堂参拝

Saturday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm and 5:00 – 5:15 pm, & Sunday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm, VancouverBuddhist Temple – Hondo

The Vancouver Buddhist Temple is the first Buddhist Temple in Canada and was established in 1904. The current temple building was constructed 35 years ago and contains a beautiful sanctuary originally constructed in Japan. Come see where generations of Canadian Shinshu Buddhists celebrate and express their gratitude for the oneness of the universe. The sanctuary is also open from 12 – 5:00pm on both days



Rakuichi at PSF47, photo by Yohei Shimomae



FILM



1910: The Uncovering

Sunday, 6:00 – 6:30pm, Firehall Arts Centre

The tragic avalanche that occurred at the Rogers Pass summit in March of 1910 remains Canada's deadliest. 58 railway workers, the majority Japanese Canadian, lost their lives while attempting to clear a snow slide from the tracks when another larger avalanche struck from the other side in the middle of the dark night. This documentary project also delves into the lives of two unlikely friends today, the great grandson of one of the railway workers who saw the aftermath of the avalanche, and a Japanese-born, Canadian immigrant ski guide brought together by their need for purpose, healing, honouring the fallen, and a shared passion for researching the deep mysteries and racial injustices of this event.

About the Filmmakers: Owen Akira Kato is a screenwriter from Vancouver. He is the son of a Japanese Canadian gas station owner and Irish/English/Scottish lab technician. The first of his family lineage to attend university, he pursued created writing and philosophy at the University of British Columbia, specializing in screenwriting, power and oppression, and ethics. Tomo Fukimura is a Japanese-born Japanese Canadian, based in Revelstoke, BC. One of the two core subjects of the documentary, having survived an avalanche in the interior of BC. Now, he works as an ACMG-certified ski guide and avalanche awareness advocate.

JCLS Short Film Series

Firehall Arts Centre

Read more under PSFS programming



When the Blossoms Fade

Sunday, 12:45 – 2:00pm, Firehall Arts Centre

A poignant documentary that follows Japanese Canadian filmmaker Tamiko Potts as they uncover a buried chapter of their family's past — the internment of over 22,000 Japanese Canadians during World War II. Along this emotional journey, Tamiko partners with trauma therapist Natascha Lawrence, whose insights help illuminate the profound intergenerational effects of displacement and silence. As Tamiko reconnects with a history long left unspoken, the film offers a moving portrait of what it takes to reclaim one's roots — and to begin the work of transformation. The screening will be followed by a debrief with the artist. About the Filmmaker: 多美子 Tamiko Potts (she/they) is a queer, Japanese Canadian Toronto-based Emmy-nominated producer and multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans documentary film, visual art, photography, and poetry. They are the owner of Unicorn Power Media, a media production company dedicated to inclusive storytelling and amplifying underrepresented voices.



SCREENINGS



Documentary films looping continuously throughout the day on the 4th floor of VJLS.

The Story of the Powell Street Salmon Barbecue



All Day Saturday, VJLS #410

This 28-minute film, played on continuous loop, takes a brief look into Japanese Canadian history, roots of Powell Street Festival, and the Salmon Barbecue booth as a piece of the Redress history. The ethics of community care are at the essence. The Powell Street Salmon Barbecue History Group documents the rich history of the Powell Street Salmon Barbecue booth at the Powell Street Festival through storytelling, research and art. This initiative is rooted in the ethos of honouring Japanese Canadians histories, celebrating activism, and centring the spirit of community care.

Archives in Motion

VJLS Room #409

Emiko Morita and Tomas Herrera, 2026

This compilation captures fifty years of Powell Street Festival through images from community group archives, festival volunteer photographers and Inter-Cultural Action Society (ICAS).

Pilgrim's and Sugar Beets

All Day Sunday, VJLS #410





Funded with JCLS funding, we are excited to showcase presentations throughout the weekend at the Vancouver Japanese Language School.



Read more about JCLS
on pg 44

Centennial Park Teahouse

Saturday, 4:30 – 5:00pm, VJLS Room 3F

The Centennial Park Tea House Project, funded through the Japanese Canadian Legacies Fund and in partnership with the Mission Community Archives, will create a BC Heritage Site in the form of a park amenity inspired by Japanese tea house tradition and culture. When open, the tea house is intended primarily as an open-air space that houses an interpretive exhibit about Mission's pioneering Japanese Canadian farming families, but is also intended for small open-air gatherings and performances. Designed by architect Shinobu Homma, the Centennial Park Tea House will be a permanent reminder of the vital contribution Japanese Canadians had in the settling of the City.

North Pacific Cannery Triplex Restoration

Sunday, 3:30 – 4:00pm, VJLS Room 3F

North Pacific Cannery Museum is the last remaining Cannery village in British Columbia. Japanese Canadians played an important role in fishing and boat building in the history of the canneries. The project restored two triplexes built in North Pacific Cannery to encourage Japanese Canadians to return to the coast after internment and relocation during the second world War.

About the Presenters: Mona Izumi is President of the Port Edward Historical Society, the governing board of North Pacific Cannery, National Historic Site. Her father was born on the North Coast and relocated to Montreal after internment. She grew up in Prince Rupert where her father fished until his death in 1966.

JCLS Family Sharing and Healing Study

Sunday, 3:00 – 4:00pm, VJLS Room 4F

The Intergenerational Wellness stream of the JCLS grant program was specifically designed to support Japanese Canadian individuals and families in addressing and healing from the intergenerational impacts of racial trauma resulting from British Columbia government actions in the 1940s. As a follow-up initiative, JCLS contracted Lucy Komori to conduct a study gathering feedback from successful grant recipients. This presentation shares the heartfelt responses from 54 interviewees as they revisited their family stories and broader Japanese Canadian histories. About the Presenter: Lucy Komori has been involved in the JC community for more than 50 years, first through PSF and Katari Taiko.

Katari Taiko History and Archive Project

Saturday, 6:00 – 7:00pm, VJLS Room 4F

In anticipation of its 50th Anniversary in 2029, Katari Taiko presents some of their history as the first taiko group in Canada and its role supporting the establishment of other taiko groups in the city as well as the country. About the Presenters: Katari Taiko, the first taiko ensemble in Canada, was formed in 1979 by Japanese and Asian Canadian activists and artists. Current members continue to respect traditions, to support creativity and to honour Japanese Canadian, Asian Canadian and Indigenous histories and cultures.



Nikkei History of Eburne, Terra Nova, & The Edwardian Cottage

Saturday, 5:30 – 6:00pm, VJLS Room 3F

Learn about the journey of four generations of Japanese Canadians and their ties to a cottage on the tip of Richmond BC. The exhibit activates photographs, captured by Hiro Koyanagi from 1928 - 1942, documenting Nikkei fishermen's life in and around Eburne BC. The presentation chronicles the Nikkei history in and around Terra Nova as well as the upcoming action for systemic change. This is a fable about residence, removal and reclamation. About the Presenter: Yonsei, Taka Lee regularly portrays Japanese Canadians on stages throughout Western Canada. Taka was the recipient of the Richmond Heritage Award in 2023 and the Distinction Award at Canada Shorts Film Festival in 2017. Currently, Taka is the vice president of Powell Street Festival.

Tomoshihi Tour:

Letting the Light Shine

Sunday, 4:00 – 4:30pm,

VJLS Room 3F

The presentation will shine a spotlight on the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre's Tomoshihi ("Lighting the Way") five-day tour of sites of internment. The impact of the tour was immense, with the presenter feeling liberated from the "Sansei guilt" of not learning about her parents' wartime experiences while they were still alive. About the Presenter: Sachiko Okuda is a sansei whose parents were interned in Tashme and Bay Farm. A community volunteer in Ottawa since the successful campaign for Japanese Canadian redress in the 1980's.

Senda Kinoshita

Nikkei Histories

Sunday, 6:30 – 7:00pm,

VJLS Room 3F

Senda Kinoshita Nikkei Histories is a family history book completed through the JCLS intergenerational wellness fund by Christopher Takashi Robertson and members of his family. Containing over 300 pages of interviews, photos, and research into the struggle and successes of two Japanese families arriving in Canada 125 years ago, becoming intertwined through circumstance and their journey today. About the Presenter: Christopher Takashi Robertson is a yonsei nikkei artist based in Montreal, Quebec. A descendent of Mission, BC, strawberry farmers and survivors of the sugar beet fields of Southern Alberta, his family would quickly move East to Toronto shortly after 1949, quoting his grandfather, "So they can never round us up again."

INTERDISCIPLINARY



Explore the interdisciplinary programs and read more about each below.

Kisyuu Japanese Calligrapher 書道家 姫洲



Sunday, 4:30 – 5:00pm, Street Stage
Kisyuu presents a live Japanese calligraphy performance that transforms writing into an embodied, time-based art. Using traditional brushes and sumi ink alongside a range of materials, she creates dynamic, large-scale works in real time.

Kisyuu (姫洲) is a Japanese calligrapher with over 30 years of experience in both traditional and modern styles of Japanese calligraphy.

Kokoro Dance and ÓFukami



Saturday, 5:45 – 6:30pm, Firehall Arts Centre

This performance combines the butoh of Kokoro Dance with the music of ÓFukami from the album "When the Future Tried to Take Me" - a six-song transmission from a world where memory, emotion, and technology blur. Rooted in theremin, voice, and a handmade koto, the music explores what it feels like to be pulled between identities, timelines, and selves.

Kokoro Dance, formed in 1986 by Jay and Barbara Hirabayashi, has created over 200 dance works that have been performed across the world, including over 25 Powell Street Festival performances. ÓFukami is the experimental moniker of Winnipeg-based composer, songwriter, and thereminist, Keri Latimer.



Japanese Canadian Place and Memory: Anthology Preview with Mata Ashita



Saturday, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Firehall Arts Centre

As a preview of the Japanese Canadian Place & Memory anthology, launching in 2027 with Véhicule Press, this immersive performance features pieces in the anthology that center around BC. Readers from various generations will take the stage to remember places that have shaped them and their families. At the end, audiences will be asked to contribute to our community map. This event will be curated by Japanese Canadian Place & Memory editor Leanne Toshiko Simpson and hosted by Mata Ashita. Mata Ashita is a writing circle for Japanese Canadians of all experiences that started during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NoriNori Unravelling....



Sunday, 3:30 – 4:00pm, Firehall Arts Centre

NoriNori unravels the mystery of her family's internment with shamisen accompaniment, storytelling, and music. This presentation will be mostly musical excerpts from the original work, supported by the Japanese Canadian Legacy Society. NoriNori is a musician and creator (former punk rocker bassist/vocalist) performing shamisen, shigin, taiko, koto, and guitar/bass with Onibana Taiko and NoriNori & Komori, Cynthia Dawn, and Canada Miyake Taiko Kai.

Paueru Gai Ondo

Saturday, 12:45 – 1:00pm, Diamond Stage
Paueru Gai Ondo is a community-based song and dance created to honour the history of the Powell Street neighbourhood and celebrate our Japanese Canadian community. Join us as we celebrate the Powell Street Festival's 50th year of community and reunion. This Ondo was created by Vancouver Taiko Society members Shinobu Homma, Steve Kubota, Masami Hanashiro, Anny Lin, Noriko Kobayashi and John Endo Greenaway.



Shishimai (lion dance): Onyōkai & Eien Hunter-Ishikawa

Sunday, 2:30 – 3:00pm, Firehall Arts Centre

Onyōkai, a group devoted to deepening their practice of traditional Japanese art forms, will present Tokyo's celebratory lion dance, Edo Kotobuki Jishi, at Powell Street Festival's 50th anniversary, featuring Eien Hunter-Ishikawa performing Ryōmen Odori (double-mask dance). Meaning "congratulations," Kotobuki is performed on auspicious occasions to invite joy and good fortune. For centuries, shishimai (lion dance) has been performed throughout Japan to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits, and this presentation celebrates the festival's milestone by bringing shishimai to the festival as a blessing for the community.

千代 Chiyo: a Thousand Generations



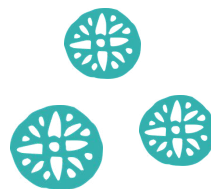
Saturday, 4:00 – 5:00pm, Firehall Arts Centre

A multi-disciplinary meditation on madness, suicide, and intergenerational healing in connection with the wartime incarceration of Japanese Canadians, through the lens of the Iwaasa family history. Structured in fragments, Chiyo incorporates spoken word, memoir, poetry, family and institutional archives, and new music and images created in collaboration with composer Keiko Devaux and visual artist SD Holman. Known for fearless performative risk, Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa's art practice explodes expectations of what's possible at the piano, flowering in liminal collisions between artistic genres.

LITERARY



Explore the literary programs and read more about each below.



Winter Never Fails to Turn to Spring 🌸

Saturday, 12:30 – 1:00pm, VJLS Room 3F
The JCLS Intergenerational Wellness – Family Sharing and Healing Grant supported the publication of Miyo Sasaki's story, a Japanese Canadian Nisei who lived in Canada and Japan (1922–1968). Originally co-written with a friend, her manuscript was edited into a self-published book. Presented by her granddaughters and great-granddaughter, they will share reflections on its impact and read excerpts from the book. Titled "Winter Never Fails to Turn to Spring," it honours Miyo's resilience and enduring hope.

About the Author: Born in Port Alice, British Columbia, Miyo Kozasa's (Sasaki) life spanned two cultures and extraordinary challenges. Growing up Canadian, then facing hardship in wartime Asia, she persevered with remarkable resilience. A devoted mother, entrepreneur, and dreamer, she overcame adversity, built successful businesses, and ultimately fulfilled her dream of returning to Canada.

Road to Justice 🌸

Saturday, 2:30 – 3:30pm, VJLS Room 3F
Art will provide an overview of his children's book "Road to Justice" for ages 9 to 12 using a power point presentation and reading short excerpts. He'll comment on the importance of sharing Japanese Canadian history with students and on the illustrations created by Geoff Miki, his son. The audience will be invited to participate in Q & A session.
About the Authors: Art Miki was a teacher, elementary school principal, citizenship judge and human rights activist. As president of the NAJC, he helped negotiate the Japanese Canadian redress agreement with the Canadian government for the violation of basic rights of its citizen during World War II. He is author of three other books, the latest is a memoir "Gaman - Perseverance; Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice" in 2024. Geoff Miki, Art's son, is the illustrator and cover designer. He is yonsei and has BFA from University of Manitoba, specializing in drawing, painting, and printmaking.

From ABCs to Activism: How a Children's Book Became a Primer on Japanese Canadian History 🌸

Sunday, 11:30am – 12:30pm, VJLS Room 4F
How much history can twenty-six letters hold? This session explores the making of The Japanese Canadian Book of ABCs. Over eight months of debate, a children's book became something larger: a way to carry Japanese Canadian history, advocacy, and community-building across generations. We will share how letters came to life, what provoked strong responses, where generational differences surfaced, and how an impossible task became a book we are proud to share.
About the Presenters:
Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi is a Sansei, community historian, and President of the Toronto NAJC. Her father was president of the NAJC during the redress years, and Lynn was in the House of Commons with her mother, father, sister, and nine-month-old son when redress was announced. Mari Galloway is a Toronto NAJC board member, litigator, and new mother. She was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and came to Canada at age two. Art and curation: Kristofer Sakamoto-Marshall and Kellen Hatanaka

Stories of Nikkei Canadians: Resilience in Struggle 🌸

Sunday, 2:30 – 3:00pm, VJLS Room 4F
Beginning with the story of her paternal grandfather Yoshimatsu Shinde, who arrived in Canada in 1893, Fukawa follows her family and community members through five generations from hard luck Japanese life to the establishment of Japanese Canadian communities in BC to their destruction and reestablishment after the devastation of the internment era. It is a story of resilience and tenacity in overcoming the effects of rejections and systemic barriers to becoming survivors and thrivers.
About the Author: Masako is an award-winning sansei educator and historian of the Japanese Canadian community. She has published books, articles, and resources for students and teachers in BC schools. She won the Canada-Japan Literary Award from the Canada Council in 2009 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Vancouver Island University in 2023. She is a grandmother and lives in Burnaby, BC.

LITERARY...



In Conversation with Novelist Leslie Shimotakahara

Sunday, 2:00 – 2:30pm, VJLS Room 4F

A reading from and author conversation about *The Breakwater*, a multigenerational novel about the long shadow of an unspeakable family secret, culminating in an overdue reunion between two rivalrous brothers of Japanese Canadian heritage. Inspired by Shimotakahara's family history, it has been praised by Kerri Sakamoto as a "vivid, earthy tale." Following her reading from various parts of the novel, Shimotakahara will answer audience questions and talk about her writing process. About the Author: Leslie Shimotakahara is an award-winning author of three novels and a memoir, as well as numerous short fiction and essays. She won the Canada-Japan Literary Prize (2012) and has been shortlisted for the K.M. Hunter Artist Award. She holds a PhD in English from Brown University, and lives in Toronto.

Little Temple on the Prairie: A History of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple

Sunday, 6:00 – 6:30pm, VJLS Room 3F

Little Temple on the Prairie: A History of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple is a non-fiction book honouring the Winnipeg temple's extraordinary 80-year history. Told through archival research and oral histories with temple members, survivors, and descendants of founders, LTOTP preserves the temple's legacy as a pillar of faith, culture, and resilience. Join writer and researcher Megan Kiyoko Wray alongside temple president Harvey Kaita to hear how they brought this community history to life. About the Authors: Author Megan Kiyoko Wray and project lead Harvey Kaita created *Little Temple on the Prairie* with illustrator Brynne Takeuchi Monterrosa and creative consultant Robert Miyai. The book was shaped by the stories of twenty oral history participants from the Manitoba Buddhist Temple community.



Haruye: A Life Lived

Sunday, 1:00 – 1:30pm, VJLS Room 4F

This book was realized from the authors bi-monthly posts in the Japanese Canadian Facebook Group throughout 2022. Miyagawa's goal is to inspire sansei, yonsei, and gosei generations by sharing her experience in BC internment camps between 1942-49.

About the Author: Harriet Haruye Miyagawa is a nisei survivor of internment of Japanese Canadians 1942-1952. Born in Port Hammond BC in 1938, after internment she lived in both Vancouver and Calgary.

The Nail That Sticks Out: Reflections on the Postwar Japanese Canadian Community

Saturday, 6:30 – 7:00pm, VJLS Room 3F

Suzanne Elki Yoko Hartmann will read from her hybrid memoir and Japanese Canadian history "The Nail That Sticks Out." Hartmann's mother was only eight months old in April 1942 when torn from her Victoria home. The family was forced to bunk in horse stalls at Vancouver's Hastings Park before being sent to an incarceration camp in the Slocan Valley. The work explores folk dancing, learning Japanese and more. Join the conversation during the Q-&-A session.

About the Author: Suzanne Elki Yoko Hartmann is a Toronto-based editor and writer with an MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of King's College. Her writing reflects her roots as a fourth-generation Japanese Canadian with German ancestry and explores meaningful coincidences, cultural memories and identity.

Rendezvous -- Love Letters

Saturday, 1:30 – 2:00pm, VJLS Room 3F

Through selected passages and reflection, Ishii shares how uncovering her family's story, shaped by wartime dispossession and inherited silence, became a pathway toward resilience, wellbeing, and deeper belonging. She speaks to how trauma can echo across generations, and how storytelling can gently transform inherited pain into connection, understanding, and strength.

About the Author: Caroline Ruriko Ishii is a writer, speaker, chef, and third-generation Japanese Canadian who nourishes and inspires through words, food, and community events. Her first book, *The Accidental Chef*, blends heartfelt stories and recipes; her second, *Canadian Vegan Recipes*, published in Japan, celebrates Canadian food and culture.



**Tune into the heartbeat of
Powell Street Festival and check
out beloved taiko groups**

Chibi Taiko 🌀

Saturday, 4:00 - 4:30pm, Diamond Stage
Chibi Taiko is the first Youth Taiko Ensemble founded in 1993 by Shinobu Homma assisted by two Taiko friends in order to train the next generation of Taiko players in Canada. The group is based at Nikkei Center in Burnaby, and the current membership counts 15 members in a range of 8 to 38 years old. The group first performed at the Powell Street Festival in 1994, and through the years it has evolved and grew into a very unique Taiko group. We appreciate this opportunity to share this unique performing art with everyone at the festival.

GO Taiko & Taiko 55

Sunday, 12:00 - 12:30pm, Diamond Stage
GO Taiko originated from free afterschool taiko classes at Admiral Seymour School in East Vancouver. They are only the second youth taiko group in BC and try to bring a fresh energetic approach to their drumming and love to share Japanese culture through taiko. Taiko 55 formed from Taiko Drumming classes at South Arm Community Centre in Richmond. They are very proud to represent the power of older adults through the power of taiko drums. Together, GO Taiko and Taiko 55 are the only intergenerational taiko group in BC!

Katari Taiko

Saturday, 3:30 - 4:00pm, Street Stage
Katari Taiko, Canada's first taiko group, was formed in 1979 by Japanese and Asian Canadian activists and artists, some of whom helped organize the first Powell Street Festivals. The group pioneered the Canadian taiko movement, blending traditional Japanese drumming with North American rhythms. Their powerful, choreographic performances celebrate Asian-Canadian identity and community. Members featured for this performance are Alice Lam, Atsuko Yamashita, Kimiko McDonnell, Nina Hayes, Pey-Ming Liu and Steve Kubota.



Sawagi Taiko, PSF 48 photo by Matthew Chun

Sawagi Taiko

Saturday, 3:00 - 3:30pm, Diamond Stage

Sawagi Taiko is the first all-women taiko group in Canada, founded in 1990. They are a multi-generational group of women of East Asian heritage, brought together by a shared passion for the Japanese drum. Sawagi means "to cause a commotion" in Japanese. With thunderous drumbeats, stirring vocals, and martial-arts inspired choreography, they share the exhilaration of taiko and harness the power of the drum to support feminist and social justice ideals.

Uzume Taiko Community Players 🌀

Saturday, 12:30 - 1:00pm, Street Stage

The performance contains unique pieces with multiple parts, dynamic rhythms, and original choreography. Each of the four pieces tells a different story, connecting the drummers to the local community, to nature, and to the Japanese taiko drumming tradition. Uzume Taiko Community Players is an offshoot of the Uzume Taiko Drum Group, made up of a diverse group of people who are dedicated to performing music from Uzume Taiko's repertoire and developing new compositions.



Vancouver Okinawa Taiko

Sunday, 4:30 - 5:00pm, Diamond Stage

Vancouver Okinawa Taiko performs the unique Okinawan drum dance known as Eisa, featuring a diverse repertoire that includes traditional Okinawan folk songs, contemporary pieces, and popular songs from around the world. Vancouver Okinawa Taiko, founded in 2004, consists of a mixed generation to reflect the presentation of grassroots folk art. We hope to deliver the Okinawan spirit through the beat of our drums and harmonies of our dance.

Sansho Daiko 🌀

Sunday, 12:30 - 1:00pm, Street Stage

Formed in 2010, Sansho Daiko is a Vancouver-based taiko group that brings a fresh approach to an ancient art form. Drawing on both traditional and contemporary repertoire, the group creates a visual and aural experience that defies easy categorization and crosses ethnic and cultural boundaries. Like the plant it was named after, Sansho Daiko seeks to be a spicy addition to the west coast taiko scene.

JODAIKO 女太鼓

Sunday, 6:30 - 7:00pm, Diamond Stage

JODAIKO was founded in 1988 to create a space for women within the traditionally male-dominated art of taiko drumming. Today, the group includes artists of diverse identities, united by a shared passion for wadaiko. They continue to honour the spirit of returning home for the local matsuri by reuniting at the Powell Street Festival, coming together to celebrate, cut loose, eat, and drum! Their performances blend traditional and contemporary taiko styles and pieces, expressing their passion, power, and joy.

MARTIAL ARTS



Since the first festival, martial arts have been the backbone of this annual celebration, showcasing the dedication, discipline, and artistry of practitioners through a diverse range of martial arts performances.

Bujinkan Taka-Seigi Dojo Vancouver

Sunday, 5:00 – 5:30pm, Demo Area
Bujinkan Budo Taijutsu is one of the oldest Japanese martial systems comprised of 9 warrior schools consisting of Samurai and Ninjutsu traditions having lineage dating back well over 1000 years. Studied internationally by military and security organizations working in high-threat situations, grandmaster Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi's Bujinkan system has received many elite awards. Dai-shihan Paul Mann, 15th dan, has travelled regularly to Japan with his students over the past 28 years to study under Dr. Hatsumi and the Japanese Dai-Shihan.

sato-ha karate do canada

Saturday, 3:30 – 4:00pm, Demo Area
A karate demonstration featuring self-defense techniques.
Vancouver Shito-Ryu was formed over 45 years ago and teaches traditional Japanese Karate. They emphasize basic techniques, using hands and feet, which are held to be most effective in combat.

Shohei Juku Aikido Canada

Saturday, 1:30 – 2:00pm, Demo Area
An Aikido demonstration featuring techniques both with and without weapons.
Shohei Juku Aikido Canada (formerly known as Pacific Aikido Kensankai) was established to promote the art of Aikido as practiced by Morito Sukanuma Sensei (Aikikai 8th dan). Their dojo is headed by chief instructor Tamami Nakashimada-sensei who currently holds the rank of 7th dan.

Shorinji Kempo BC

Sunday, 12:30 – 1:00pm, Demo Area
Originating from Japan, Shorinji Kempo is a martial art that combines physical prowess with mental discipline. Witness the fluid and powerful movements of Shorinji Kempo practitioners, highlighting its unique blend of strikes, kicks, joint locks, and throws. Members of Shorinji Kempo BC have been teaching and training in the community for over 50 years, teaching self defence, spiritual development, and health and wellness.

Vancouver Katori Shinto Ryu Kenjutsu: Sugawara Budo

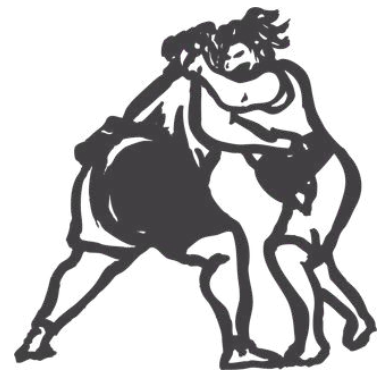
Sunday, 6:00 – 6:30pm, Demo Area
A demonstration featuring Iaijutsu, Kenjutsu, Bojutsu, Naginata jutsu, and other sword techniques.
Katori Shinto Ryu Kenjutsu is a classical martial art focusing on sword fighting techniques. They train to fight with the traditional samurai weapons: the long and short sword, fighting staff, spear, and naginata (halberd).

Vancouver Iaido Club

Saturday, 4:30 – 5:00pm, Demo Area
A demonstration of the Japanese sword martial art of Eishin-ryu Iaido.
Vancouver Iaido Club has been practicing at UBC campus and Marpole Community Centre for over 45 years, and are certified by the World MJER Iaido Federation in Japan.

UBC Classical Bu-jutsu Club (UBC古流武術クラブ)

Saturday, 1:30 – 2:00pm, Demo Area
The UBC Classical Ju-jutsu club (Shōfūkan Dōjō 翔風館道場) is an organization dedicated to the practice, preservation, and promotion of the classical combative systems of feudal Japan. The techniques that will be demonstrated are from the Bitchū-den (備中伝) lineage of a system called Takeuchi-ryū (竹内流), which was created in 1532 (天文元年), during Japan's Warring States Period. Practice involves not only unarmed skills but also the use of, and defence against, a variety of weapons, including long sword, short sword, staves, glaives, spears, etc. The Shōfūkan Dōjō is one of only four schools at which Takeuchi-ryū can be taught outside Japan, as authorized by our master Ono Yōtaro-sensei (小野陽太郎先生), who is the 16th headmaster of the Bitchū-den lineage.



UBC Classical Bu-jutsu at PSF49, Yohei Shimomae



MEET THE H₂O CREW!

Keep an eye out for the H₂O Crew who are volunteers roaming the festival grounds with water misters to help you beat the heat!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Tag @ powellstfest and use hashtags #powellstfest and #PSF50 to share your favourite festival moments!

#powellstfest #PSF50

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! STAYING COOL AT PSF50



August in Vancouver can be HOT and we want you to enjoy the whole festival. Here are a few tips to keep cool during the festival:

- Hydrate early and often. Don't wait until you're thirsty. Water stations will be available on-site, so bring a reusable bottle and use them.
- Wear sun protection. A hat, sunscreen, and light, breathable layers go a long way. Bonus points if you're repping PSF50 merch!
- Take shade breaks. Oppenheimer Park has shaded areas so please use them. Or step into the Vancouver Japanese Language School or Firehall Arts Centre to check out installations and performances while cooling down from the sun.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion. Dizziness, nausea, heavy sweating, and weakness are your body's way of saying slow down.
- Find a cool spot, hydrate, and seek help if symptoms persist.
- Look out for each other. Check in on elders, friends, and anyone who might need a hand. First aid will be on-site throughout the weekend. If you or someone near you needs help, don't hesitate to find a staff or volunteer wearing a hachimaki.



Kayla Isomura



PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK
(ROAD CLOSED TO CARS)



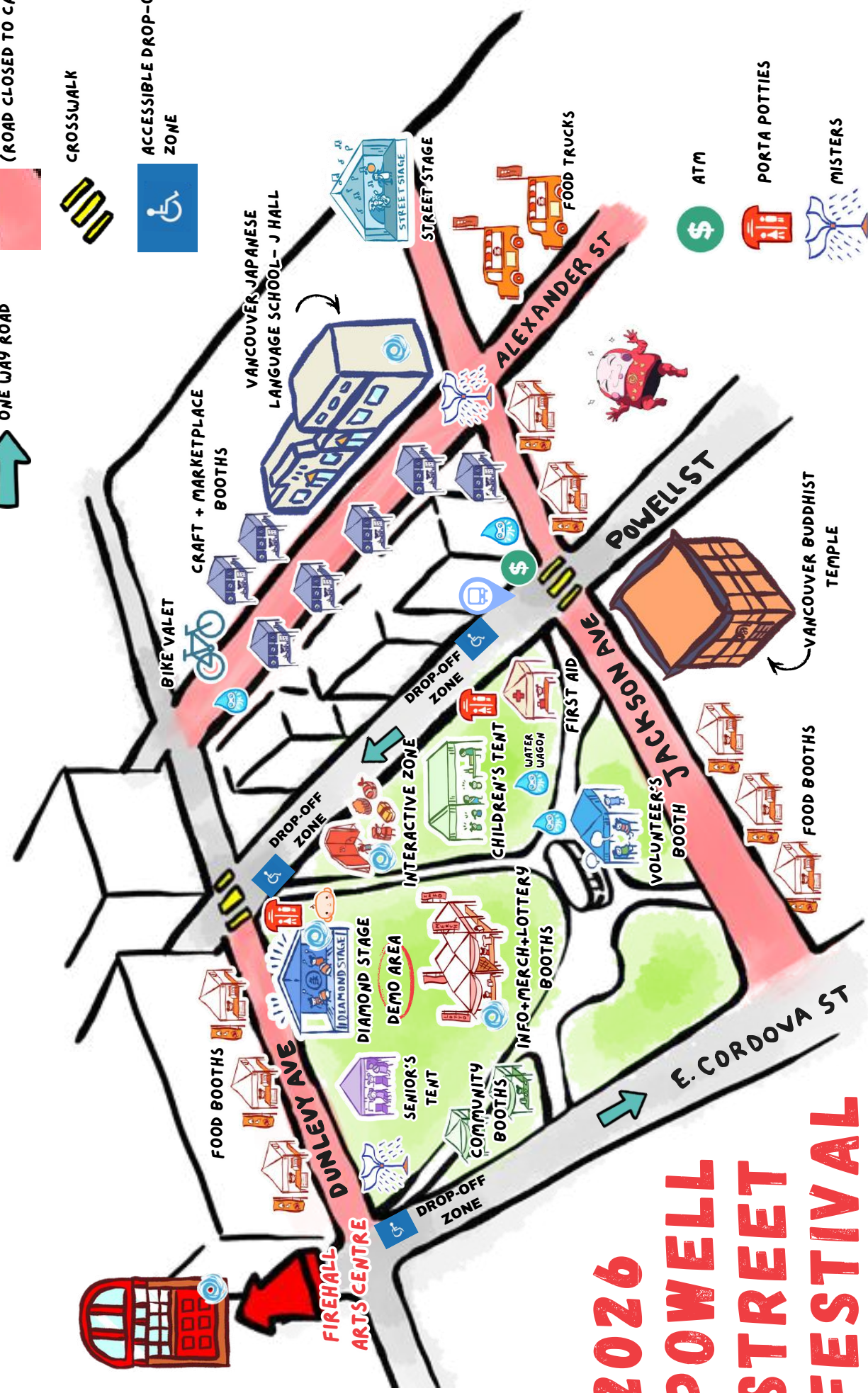
CROSSWALK



ACCESSIBLE DROP-OFF
ZONE



ONE WAY ROAD
→



2026 POWELL STREET FESTIVAL SITE MAP

ATM



PORTA POTTIES



MISTERS



DRINKING WATER
STATION



BABY CHANGE
STATION



STAMP STATION



VANCOUVER BUDDHIST
TEMPLE





Sakura Singers, 2025

Asian Persuasion All Stars

Sunday, 2:00 – 2:30pm, Diamond Stage
Asian Persuasion All Stars is a fun-loving, genre-blending collective of Vancouver indie rockers and artists from a variety of creative, talented, and entertaining local groups. What began as a fundraising song to stand up against pandemic-era racism quickly became a musical movement. The 11-piece band mixes a growing catalog of fresh, rhythmic original tunes with danceable reggae, ska, soul, and indie rock classics – they keep the party conscious, contagious, and thought-provoking.

Rina and the Tohoku Min'yō Band

Saturday, 5:30 – 6:00pm, Street Stage
Rina and the Japanese Min'yo Band, specializes in Tohok Min'yo, a folk music style from northern Japan. Performing since 2011 in Victoria, BC, the group brings Japanese folk traditions to life. Led by min'yo singer and shamisen player Rina Kikuchi, the band features Mitsuko on vocals, Danny on Shamisen, Don on vocals, backup vocals, and shamisen, and Eric and Naomi on backup vocals and percussion, creating a dynamic and authentic musical experience.

CoSei

Sunday, 2:30 – 3:00pm, Street Stage
Experience the harmony of Japan and the West with CoSei, a distinctive cross-cultural trio featuring koto/guzheng, piano, voice, and award-winning violin. Rooted in Japanese musical sensibility and shaped by Western classical and contemporary influences, CoSei creates an evolving soundscape that moves gracefully from serene, traditional-inspired melodies to dynamic, modern and rock-influenced pieces. Pico Masaki leads this intimate ensemble with rare artistry as one of the few artists worldwide to sing modern songs while playing the koto/guzheng.

Vancouver Sakura Singers

Saturday, 1:00 – 1:30pm, Diamond Stage
The Sakura Singers was formed in 1970 by Ruth Suzuki and was inaugurated into a Society in 2006. We promote the enjoyment of Japanese songs, and a better understanding and appreciation by all Canadians of Japanese Canadian culture. We invite anyone who loves to sing Japanese songs to join us.

Sharon Minemoto Quartet – Goodbye Strawberry Hill

Saturday, 1:00 – 2:00pm, Firehall Arts Centre
Recorded in October 2025, Goodbye Strawberry Hill features compositions in reflection of Minemoto's family's experiences in internment camps. Each song has a story attached to it, which is intimately shared along with each performance. Sharon Minemoto has performed to audiences around the world. Since 2000, Sharon has been a music faculty member at Vancouver Community College. As curator, she programs the popular weekly jazz series every Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon at La Fabrique St. George Winery.





Southern Wave Okinawan Music and Dance Society

Saturday, 6:00 – 6:30pm, Diamond Stage

Southern Wave Okinawan Music and Dance Society was founded in 2020 during the pandemic to lift spirits through Okinawan music and the practice of the Sanshin (Okinawan three-string banjo). Our membership has grown organically, bringing together people who love and wish to share Okinawan music and dance while learning and practicing the Sanshin. We also aspire to serve as a bridge connecting Okinawan artists with our diverse, multicultural local community.

Tamami Maitland Trio

Saturday, 2:30 – 3:00pm, Street Stage

Tamami Maitland is a Vancouver-based singer-songwriter who captivates audiences with her groovy melodies, blending her Japanese heritage into a vibrant fusion of jazz and R&B. Her music resonates with themes of nature and love, reminiscent of traditional Japanese poetry. Following a successful tour of Japan and a featured spot on YesTV's Path to Creation, Tamami is deeply grateful to the Powell Street Festival for the invitation to perform at this landmark 50th Annual Festival, accompanied by Seth Kitamura on drums and Bella Fedrigo on bass.

Yewchi

Saturday, 4:30 – 5:00pm, Street Stage

Yewchi performs a unique hybrid of North American roots music and jazz, reinterpreted through Japanese aesthetics with a focus on space, texture, and harmony. Through master-level flatpicking, he weaves melody, bass, and rhythm simultaneously on a single guitar, creating a full, expressive sound without loopers or backing tracks. Vancouver-based guitarist, recording artist, and educator, Yewchi explores instrumental storytelling, acoustic texture, and human-centered musical presence. Yewchi is a Vancouver-based guitarist and instructor at Rufus Guitar Shop, known for his work with Juno Award-winner Gabriel Mark Hasselbach.



Southern Wave Okinawan Music and Dance Society
Matthew Chun, 2025

Uzume Taiko Community Players



Saturday, 12:00 – 12:30pm, Street Stage

The performance contains unique pieces with multiple parts, dynamic rhythms, and original choreography. Each of the four pieces tells a different story, connecting the drummers to the local community, to nature, and to the Japanese taiko drumming tradition. Uzume Taiko Community Players is an offshoot of the Uzume Taiko Drum Group, made up of a diverse group of people who are dedicated to performing music from Uzume Taiko's repertoire and developing new compositions.

Marina and zmi

Sunday, 1:00 – 1:30pm, Diamond Stage

Marina and zmi guide listeners through sound to the landscapes of home that each of us have quietly preserved in our hearts, awakening the tender memories we carry and weaving connections between past, present, and future. Shore at the Dawn / Spirit of the Tides is composed by zmi with lyrics written by Marina, both were inspired by Okinawan music. Marina is a longtime vocalist and sanshin player with Southern Wave Okinawa. zmi is a Japan-based composer and pianist whose music has been featured in TV and film.

The Shorties

Sunday, 5:30 – 6:00pm, Street Stage

The Shorties are a contemporary folk trio based in Vancouver, BC. Drawing influences from Jazz, R&B and Folk, the singer-songwriters weave together colourful harmonies and heartfelt lyrics. Cindy Dai, Kaya Kurz, and Sydney Tough met while studying music at Capilano University and quickly bonded over jam sessions, heart-to-hearts, and a shared love of Joni Mitchell. Their music is full of gentle encouragement and leaves audiences with a hopeful resolve that they are not alone.

The Jason de Couto Organ Trio

Saturday, 5:00 – 5:30pm, Diamond Stage

The Jason de Couto Organ Trio is a Vancouver organ trio led by Jason de Couto on Hammond B3 Organ, and features Alvin Brendan on Guitar and Trent Otter on Drums. They have come together to form a unique and dynamic sound rarely heard in Vancouver, featuring the mighty Hammond Organ. The group plays a mix of Jazz, Funk, Pop, Latin, and Blues music, with influences ranging from Jimmy Smith to Larry Goldings.



DANCE

APPARE Yosakoi Vancouver

Saturday, 2:00 – 2:30pm, Diamond Stage
An energetic and dynamic Yosakoi dance performance that blends traditional Japanese festival culture with contemporary music and choreography. Featuring powerful group formations, colorful costumes, and the rhythmic sound of naruko clappers, they create an exciting and visually engaging experience for audiences of all ages. APPARE Yosakoi Vancouver is a community-based dance team dedicated to sharing the spirit of Yosakoi, a modern Japanese festival dance.

THEATRE

Hitotose

Saturday, 2:30 – 3:00pm, Demo Area

Hitotose is a samurai performance group founded by Haruno and Yuki. They perform across the continent, combining international experience in live performance and workshops. Both are professional actors with roles in the Emmy and Golden Globe-winning series *Shōgun*. Tate is a traditional Japanese performing art that blends choreographed sword fighting with expressive acting. Unlike martial arts or sport, it focuses on storytelling through movement. Hitotose aims to bring the emotional depth and excitement of samurai drama to contemporary audiences.

Kasha Konaka - Kakurenbo

Sunday, 1:30 – 2:00pm, Street Stage

What seems like a simple game of hide and seek, Kakurenbo turns into a story of the mental turmoil centered on the contradiction of both wanting to be seen and wanting to disappear. Using cardboard boxes, playful props, and mesmerizing contortions, Kasha explores her identity both as an artist, performer and as a human who struggles with feelings of belonging and sense of self.

Kasha Konaka is an interdisciplinary circus artist and performer specializing in contortion.

Za Daikon

Sunday, 11:30am – 12:15pm, Firehall Arts Centre

Performance of a classical Japanese comedy. Za Daikon is a Vancouver-based amateur Japanese theatrical group formed in 1994. They perform Japanese comedies, folktales, and staged readings at various community events. In Japanese with English surtitles.

World Soran!

Sunday, 5:30 – 6:00pm, Diamond Stage

World Soran! is an international dance ensemble uniting Japanese, Canadian, and Japanese Canadian members through a shared passion for traditional Japanese festival dance. Our diverse repertoire blends traditional sea shanties—such as Soran Bushi and Ushibuka Haiya Bushi—with vibrant performances from Okinawa. Through our historical, fishing-related performances, we proudly pay tribute to the early Japanese settlers in Canada who contributed to the local fishing industry. Beyond the stage, World Soran! serves as a unique platform for cultural immersion and meaningful international exchange.

Otowa Ryu

Saturday, 11:45am – 12:00pm, Diamond Stage

The Otowa Ryu Japanese Dance Group presents a vibrant selection of traditional Japanese folk dances, children's dances, and shin buyo (contemporary Japanese dances). Since the early 1970s, members of the group have been dedicated to sharing the art of Japanese dance through performances at festivals, cultural demonstrations, and events throughout the Lower Mainland and across Canada. Their work celebrates the richness and beauty of Japanese culture through movement and tradition.



APPARE Yosakoi at PSF48 photo by Yohei Shimomae



Otowa Ryu PSF46 photo by Andrew Chan

INSTALLATIONS



A new addition to PSF Programming for 2026 are installation rooms! These are curated spaces from various Japanese Canadian artists meant to showcase our community and foster deeper connections.

Generations of Assimilation



VJLS Room #412

"Generations of Assimilation" is an art installation made by Japanese Canadian Artist Stephanie Takagi. After the internment of Japanese Canadians during WWII the expectation was assimilation. This art installation is an attempt to bring honest discussion of what that assimilation has cost Japanese Canadians. Stephanie is a third generation mixed-race Japanese Canadian and the grand-daughter of an internment camp survivor. She grew up in a small rural town in BC not far from where her Grandfather was interned. Her experiences growing up in one of those small towns is the inspiration for Generations of Assimilation. What has assimilation cost the Japanese Canadian community? Artist Biography: Stephanie Takagi is a third generation Japanese Canadian. She grew up the eldest of three in the town of 100 Mile House. She now lives with her husband and two daughters in the Okanagan. She's currently a ceramic artist creating both functional and sculptural pieces inspired by her Japanese heritage and BC landscape.

Kome's Room

VJLS Room #413

Inspired by Kome Nagasaki's Momiji residence, Kome's Room is a place where the door is always unlocked, and you are always welcome. In this intergenerational space for grounding, connecting, and recharging, slow down, pause, and just be together, reconnect with old and new friends, make postcards, or learn to play gaji. Kome's Room is an offering from the NAJC Young Leaders Committee, intended as a peaceful refuge from the festival, and a transition space before and after visiting the Wind Phone and Post Office next door. Events: Join Djuna Nagasaki and Hanako Teranishi for a community arts workshop creating postcards for absent loved ones, to be left as symbolic offerings at the Paueru Gai Post Office. Participants are asked to stay the entire session, as a modified healing circle will follow. Space is limited and intended for Japanese Canadian/ Nikkei-identifying individuals. Sign up at the NAJC community booth. Artist Bio: Djuna Nagasaki offers Kome's Room with support from the NAJC Young Leaders Committee. Djuna is a mixed gosei MA student in Anthropology at the University of Toronto, residing on Treaty 13 land. Kome was her great-grandmother, whom she honours in this installation.

Windphone & Paueru Gai Post Office

VJLS Room #414

Inspired by Japanese wind phones, this interactive phone booth and mailbox installation is a portal for reflection and remembrance. Make a symbolic call, "send" a postcard, or write names and messages to past loved ones and ancestors. Explore the spoken and unspoken, leave an offering in a way that feels right to you. After visiting, you're invited to rest in Kome's Room, an intergenerational space to decompress before returning to the festival.

The Wind Phone was first introduced to Paueru Gai by Patti Ayukawa in 2025. The stewardship of this installation has been graciously entrusted to the Young Leaders Committee.

Artist Biography: The National Association of Japanese Canadians Young Leaders Committee is comprised of young Japanese Canadians from across the country who are leaders in their respective communities. Current committee members are Alex Okuda-Rayfuse, Djuna Nagasaki, Emily Gleave Higa, Rebecca Keindel, SORCHA Gibson, Miku Kawashima, Hanna Knudsen, Hanako Teranishi, and Niina Dubik.

Join the Artists!

August 2nd, 12:00 - 1:30PM

Join Djuna Nagasaki and Hanako Teranishi for a community arts workshop in which participants will create postcards for absent loved ones, intended to be left as symbolic offerings at the Paueru Gai Post Office. Participants are asked to stay for the entire session, as a modified healing circle will follow the activity. Space is limited and intended for Japanese Canadian/Nikkei-identifying individuals.

Sign up here:



or at the National Association of Japanese Canadians' community booth.

INSTALLATIONS...



My Great-Grandparents' Farm

VJLS Room #411

My great-grandparents went from proudly owning a fruit and vegetable farm five football fields large in Richmond, BC, to being forced by the Canadian government to live impoverished in a shack for years, picking sugar beets for a pittance to pay for their own incarceration in Taber, Alberta. Legalized racism ripped away my great-grandparents' dreams for themselves and future generations. By taking the land, property, and wealth of Japanese Canadians and forcing them into confinement and poverty, Canada purposefully broke Japanese Canadian communities. The intergenerational loss of cultural connection, language, wealth, and way of life is represented by the 100+ homes now sitting on the land my great-grandparents once owned. Learn about the inspiration for this installation and the Canadian govt's forced removal, dispossession, and incarceration of Japanese Canadians through the family history and stories researched by the artist. Artist Biography: Miki Dare (pronounced DAH-RAY, meaning "who" in Japanese) is a Japanese Canadian writer and artist who uses mixed media — from food packaging to fire to photography — to dig into our history's roots and explore how they shape personal identities and social realities today.

Meet the Artist!

August 2nd, 2:00 - 3:30PM

Learn about the historical injustices faced by Japanese Canadians and how they resisted and persisted in the face of systemic racism. This will be an experiential learning process where participants rip up paper to represent the difficulties that Japanese Canadians faced. At the end, participants will create chigiri-e hearts to remember the past and move forward in a good way. It is recommended for adults and teens at the secondary school level.



Visible Mending: The Weight We Carry

VJLS Room #407

A suspended fishing net references Japanese Canadian coastal labour histories and serves as a framework for a growing collection of participant-created dresses. Inspired by the artist's family history of dressmaking, fishing, and cannery work, the installation unfolds between two zones: a monochrome past and a brightly coloured future. Full-sized hand sewn and painted dresses, based on patterns once made by the artist's grandmother, anchor the work and prompt dialogue about memory, labour, and transformation. Visitors are invited to decorate miniature paper dresses and hang them to create an evolving collective artwork. Together, the life-sized and miniature dresses create an ever-growing landscape of memory, resilience, renewal, and shared storytelling. Artist Biography: Arleigh Endo Wood is a Japanese Canadian mixed media artist based in East Vancouver. Her current work explores memory, labour, and the shifting meaning of home, drawing from family histories of fishing, cannery, and garment work. She has exhibited in Canada and internationally, and is represented by the Vancouver Art Gallery Rental and Sales Program and Art Interiors, Toronto. www.arleighwood.com IG@arleighwood

Meet the Artist!

August 1st, 12:00 - 1:00PM

August 2nd, 3:30 - 4:30PM

Led by the artist, participants will decorate miniature paper dresses inspired by intricate quarter-scale garment patterns originally made by her grandmother. Using colour, text, names, memories, and hopes for the future, visitors will personalize their dresses before attaching them to the suspended fishing net with miniature wooden clothes pegs. As the festival progresses, the installation will grow into a collective expression of visible mending, shared storytelling, and intergenerational connection.

Undertow / 潜流



VJLS Room #408

Undertow explores the quiet forces that shape memory, intuition, environment and family lineage. The installation brings together Nishikawara's recent works including family images suspended as Cyanotypes on silk, Takuhon (stone rubbings) from ancestral gravestones in Japan, Gyo-taku (fish prints), and Tenugui textiles created using de-commissioned fishing nets, seaweed, and plant materials. This installation is evidence of: connections, stories, historical and cultural processes, interactions with the natural environment, oneself and others.

Artist Biography: Paula Nishikawara has deep connections to both Canada and Japan, her work spanning countries, oceans, cultures and history. Her art employs elements, techniques and materials relating to Japanese culture that reveal discovery stories about her lineage and historical connections to art making. Her facilitation of hands-on community workshops deeply inform and frame her work and has become a shared experience of inquiry, discovery and tactile processes.

Gyo-taku Workshop

Check it out at the
JCLS booth

Sat: 12pm - 2pm

3pm - 5pm

Sun: 12pm - 3pm



This event requires registration. To sign up, please visit the Satellite Info booth in the VJLS Japanese Hall during the festival.



DISPLAY



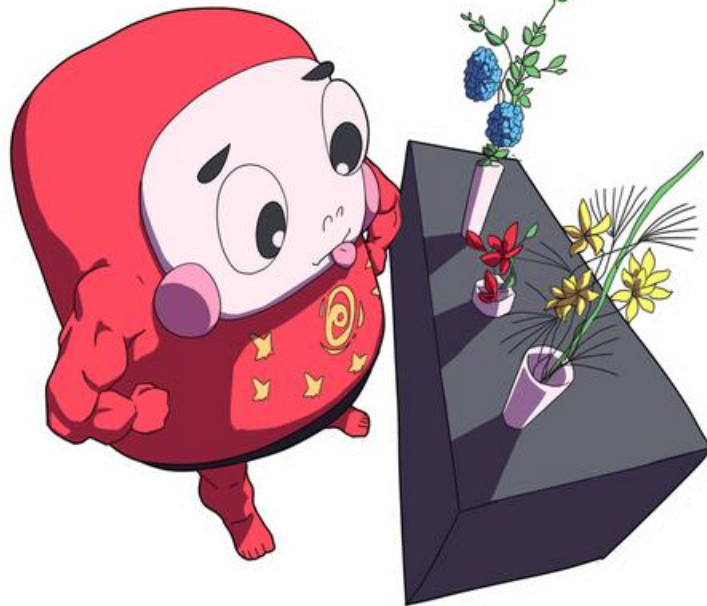
DISPLAYS ARE ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND IN THE VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL AND SANCTUARY VISITS WILL BEGIN AT THE CORNER OF POWELL ST. AND JACKSON ST.

Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver 在バンクーバー日本国総領事館



Japanese Hall in VJLS

At the Powell Street Festival, the Consulate General of Japan's booth offers travel brochures, information on exchange programs, and cultural displays to promote relations between Japan and Canada. Visitors can explore tourism pamphlets, flyers, and magazines about Japan, as well as information on the Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme (JET) and Study in Japan scholarships and opportunities. The Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver serves British Columbia and Yukon, offering consular services, cultural events, and educational programs to strengthen Japan-Canada relations.



Sanshin Open House



Saturday & Sunday, 12pm – 5pm, 2nd floor Boardroom in VJLS

Join Okinawan Sanshin master craftsman, certified Sanshin instructor, and musician Hitoshi Kiyomura for a Sanshin Open House where participants can explore all aspects of the Sanshin. Activities include Sanshin deconstruction and construction demonstrations, hands-on tryouts, repairs, and a Miyako min'yō sing-along session. Hitoshi Kiyomura was born on Tarama Island in the Miyako Archipelago of Okinawa, Japan. He is a master Sanshin craftsman and a certified Sanshin instructor with the Nomura School Preservation Society of Ryukyuan Classical Music.

Vancouver Buddhist Temple Sanctuary Visit バンクーバー仏教会本堂参拝



Saturday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm and 5:00 – 5:15 pm, & Sunday, 3:00 – 3:15 pm, Vancouver Buddhist Temple – Hondo

The Vancouver Buddhist Temple is the first Buddhist Temple in Canada and was established in 1904. The current temple building was constructed 35 years ago and contains a beautiful sanctuary originally constructed in Japan. Come see where generations of Canadian Shinshu Buddhists celebrate and express their gratitude for the oneness of the universe. Meet inside the Exhibit Hall at the Buddhist Temple. The sanctuary is also open from 12 – 5:30pm on both days.

Vancouver Ikebana Association



バンクーバー生け花協会

Japanese Hall, VJLS

The Vancouver Ikebana Association is a not-for-profit organization that aims to educate the community and promote the Japanese art of floral design (ikebana) within the Lower Mainland. Ikebana - Japanese floral design - will be on display and feature the styles of four different disciplines of ikebana.

バンクーバー生け花協会は、コミュニティに教育を提供し、ローワーメインランドで日本の花道（いけばな）を広めることを目的とした非営利団体です。展示では、4つの異なる流派のスタイルを紹介します。

35

STRATHCONA
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HAPA
COLLABORATIVE



WORKSHOPS



Discovering and Discussing Japanese Canadian Identity

Saturday, 3:30 – 5:30pm, VJLS Room 4F

Join us for an interactive, intergenerational workshop exploring what it means to be Japanese Canadian today. This two-hour session will begin with short videos and brief presentations sharing community stories and research on Japanese Canadian (JC) youth identities. We will have group discussions on what it means to be a Japanese Canadian (including JC mixed and LGBTQ identities), so whether you're currently a youth or just remember being one, all ages are welcome! About the Facilitators: Izumi Sakamoto (she/her), an immigrant scholar, founded the Japanese Canadian Arts and Activism Project (JCAAP) at the University of Toronto. Our presenters/team members reflect multiple generations of Japanese Canadian experience: Momo Ando (she/her), a Shin-Nisei from Vancouver and Niagara-on-the-Lake; Ai Yamamoto (they/she) Shin-Nisei from Tkaronto whose Nisei relatives survived incarceration; Sofia MacPherson (she/her; Gosei) from Edmonton; and Izumi Niki (she/her), an immigrant from Japan whose doctoral work in Tkaronto explores elder care by Japanese caregivers.

Reflect and Connect to



Haiku Through Your Language

Sunday, 11:30am – 1:30pm, VJLS Room 3F

We invite participants to experience and connect emotionally with haiku written by issei ancestors – no Japanese language ability required. Facilitators Carolyn and Yoriko will share some of their favourite issei-authored haiku, the methodologies they have developed to poetically respond to haiku, and notes on the meaning of Japanese words and grammar appearing in the poems. Participants will gain an appreciation for the creative powers of issei poets, and have the opportunity to make their own creative reflections, translations, and connections. About the Facilitators: Carolyn Nakagawa is a fourth-generation Anglo-Japanese Canadian writer. Her works include poetry, plays, and exhibits on Japanese Canadian history and heritage. Yoriko Gillard is a contemporary artist, arts-based researcher, and Japanese language and culture educator and facilitator born and raised in Japan. She teaches at Capilano University and Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre.



Big Print workshop 2025, Matthew Chun

Learning and Experiencing the Art of Tate

Saturday, 6:00 – 7:00pm, VJLS Tatami Room

Tate/殺陣 is a traditional Japanese performing art that combines samurai sword fighting with expressive acting. Unlike martial arts or sports, it emphasizes storytelling through movement and is widely seen in samurai films and theatre. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the history of Tate, and try basic movements themselves, like those seen in samurai films. Through this hands-on experience, they can learn how movement, timing, and expression work together to create samurai art. About the Facilitators: Hitotose is a samurai performance group founded by Haruno and Yuki, blending international expertise in live performance and workshops. They perform across the continent and lead workshops at the NNMCC, Tōzenji (a Japanese Buddhist temple), and local theatres such as the Arts Club Theatre and Bard on the Beach. Both are professional actors with roles in the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning series *Shōgun*.

JCCC's Sedai Oral History Workshop



Saturday, 12:00 – 2:30pm, VJLS Room 4F

We will provide practical information and hands-on experience with interview techniques to empower Japanese Canadian community members to become oral historians. Topics covered: how to craft interview questions, active listening for best results in story gathering, what equipment to use and how to use it, as well as discussions around ongoing consent. If you're considering interviewing a relative or loved one, this workshop is for you! About the Facilitator: Karen Suzuki has been working with the Sedai Oral History Collection since January 2025. Suzuki is also a film producer and director.

Homing Pidgin

Saturday, 5:00 – 6:30pm, VJLS Room 4F

Homing Pidgin is a tongue-in-cheek riff off of the bird called a Homing Pidgeon, referring to the bird's ability to always return home, even if released at night, in a foreign place hundreds of miles away from its roost. Homing Pidgin also refers to the unique hybrid language developed by the first Japanese Canadians in BC. Similar to how indigenous people developed the trader language, called Chinook Wau Wau. There are places like Steveston and groups on the surrounding BC islands who developed their own unique Japanese Canadian pidgin. Come and join in a lively discussion with the artist Haruko Okano. She collected and used the pidgin as part of a collaborative performance with writer Fred Wah and in her own book of poetry "The Waiter's Bill Pad." About the Facilitator: Haruko Okano is a 3rd generation Japanese Canadian, currently living in Vancouver. Her grandfather began Canadian roots in Haney, BC, in the late 1800s. She was born in Toronto during the last year of WWII. Orphaned at the age of 9, she was raised through the Ontario foster care system. She considers herself a cultural hybrid.

WORKSHOPS...



Kids Sumo Workshop

Saturday, 12:30 – 1:30pm,
VJLS Tatami Room

An introduction to sumo for children. Participants will do a quick warm up, learn some basic techniques, and experience sumo in a safe environment. No experience is necessary. Parental guardians must be present with children. Athletic or loose casual clothing is strongly recommended. Sumo wrestling is a traditional Japanese sport where two participants try to push out or topple their opponent. Japanese Canadians have been sumo wrestling for generations and it has been a staple feature of the Powell Street Festival.

Origami + Movement Workshop



Saturday, 3:30 – 5:30pm, VJLS Tatami Room

Participants will spend time making Miya's self-portrait origami, a playful printing of her face that we will fold into traditional origami designs, such as the jumping frog, butterfly, paku paku and cube. The origami sculptures will then be used in an improvised movement practice led by Shion, inspired by the paper designs, folding and unfolding the body, and connecting with one another. This workshop is open level (no previous origami or dance experience required) and suited to all ages; for younger children, assistance from an adult is required. About the Facilitators: Shion Skye Carter (they/she) is a dance artist originally from Gifu, Japan, based in Vancouver, Canada on the unceded, traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples. Shion's artistic practice peels apart layers of identity and reflects on the complex human experience. Miya Turnbull (she/her) is a Yonsei multi-disciplinary visual artist based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, originally from Alberta. Her practice spans sculpture, photography, video and performance and she primarily uses mask-making as a way to explore identity and layers of self.

Adults Sumo Workshop

Saturday, 2:00 – 3:00pm, VJLS Tatami Room

An introduction to sumo. Participants will do a quick warm up, learn some basic techniques, and experience sumo in a safe environment. No experience is necessary. Athletic or loose casual clothing strongly recommended (clothing mandatory). If you've ever thought that sumo might be a little intimidating to start, this is a fantastic opportunity to try it out!

Sumo wrestling is a traditional Japanese sport where two participants try to push out or topple their opponent. Japanese Canadians have been sumo wrestling for generations and it has been a staple feature of the Powell Street festival. While the tournament is fiery and intense, we believe that sumo can be fun and rewarding for everyone.

About the Facilitators: Satoshi (he/him) has been doing sumo since 2024 and has been an organizer with Sumo Sundays since 2025. Satoshi is passionate about getting everyone to try sumo.

Shane (he/him) is a co-founder of Sumo Sundays and has been doing sumo for 10 years. Shane is an advocate of all-inclusive sumo; "Being a smaller fighter, it was always my goal to normalize sumo (...) that anyone can play, regardless of size".



COMMUNITY BOOTHS

Powell Street Festival is pleased to be joined by Japanese Canadian community groups and organizations. Learn more about them in their own words below and find them in Oppeneheimer Park during Festival weekend!

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre

The Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre is a non-profit that preserves and shares Japanese Canadian history, as well as a gathering place to celebrate Japanese culture. 日系文化センター・博物館はカナダでの日本文化の普及および日系カナダ人の歴史の保存と共有に努めています。

Tonari Gumi

Tonari Gumi is a Japanese Canadian community organization that supports seniors and families through social, cultural, educational, and wellness programs, fostering connection, independence, and belonging while celebrating Japanese heritage and community care.

隣組は、日本の文化とコミュニティーを大切にしながら、高齢者や家族を対象に、交流・文化・教育・健康促進のプログラムを提供し、つながり、自立、そして地域への帰属意識を育む日系カナダ人のコミュニティ団体です。

Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall

The Vancouver Japanese School & Japanese Hall is a non-profit, community-based and driven organization, committed to education, culture and community. Since 1906, the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall (VJLS-JH) [Vancouver Nihon-go Gakko narabi ni Nikkei Jin Kaikan] has been a hub of Japanese language learning and culture in the heart of Vancouver's Paueru Gai (Powell Street) neighbourhood.

Sumo Sundays

Sumo Sundays is Canada's only all-bodies sumo club with deep roots in the Japanese Canadian community. We aim to promote sumo as an activity for all regardless of size, gender or experience, and strive to foster an inclusive environment that builds confidence and skills.

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (of Toronto)

Founded in 1963, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) is one of the largest and most vibrant Japanese cultural centres in the world. Our mandate is to promote Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian heritage. 1963年設立の日系文化会館(JCCC)は日本国外におき、最大規模を誇る活気溢れる日本の文化会館です。

Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association

The Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association (VJGA) is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1959. Our Association consists of professional gardeners and landscapers, aiming to promote Japanese Gardens through construction, maintenance, and education techniques. Our members have built many beautiful Japanese gardens throughout the lower mainland and associate with other organizations in order to increase our knowledge and expertise in Japanese gardens.

Nikkei Vancouver for Justice 日系バンクーバー正義の会

Nikkei Vancouver for Justice is social justice organization led by Nikkei diaspora and Japanese migrants against injustice and imperialism based in so-called "Vancouver, BC." All proceeds go to support the work of community events, our future actions and Kaihō magazine.

日系バンクーバー正義の会は、帝国主義や不正義に抵抗する日系ディアスポラと日本人移民による社会正義団体です。全ての収益は、今後のイベント、抗議や季刊誌「Kaihō・カイホウ」に充てられます。

Nikoniko Home Care

Nikoniko Home Care helps seniors live safely and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible. We combine warmth, smiles, and Japanese-inspired professionalism to provide respectful, culturally sensitive care that preserves dignity, independence, and the unique identity of every senior we serve. 私たちNikoniko Home Careは、ご高齢者が住み慣れたご自宅で、できる限り長く安心して暮らせるよう支援します。日本のきめ細やかな専門性と温かな笑顔を大切に、お一人おひとりの尊厳と個性を守る、心のこもったケアを提供しています。

National Association of Japanese Canadians

Founded in 1947, the NAJC is the only national organization representing Japanese Canadians. The NAJC led the historic 1988 Redress Settlement and continues to advance human rights, equity, and community development, fostering collaboration, youth engagement, and collective action to promote justice and strengthen communities across Canada.

paueru gaizette / Tadaima Collective

Tadaima! Collective is a community of artists and friends dedicated to celebrating Japanese Canadian culture through art, creativity and storytelling. We create Paueru Gaizette, a zine featured at the Powell Street Festival. Come by our booth for zines, temporary tattoos, stickers and a hands-on activity!

Past Wrongs, Future Choices

Past Wrongs, Future Choices aims to extend and mobilize knowledge of the racialized uprooting, internment, dispossession, and deportation of civilians of Japanese descent (Nikkei) in allied countries throughout the Americas and the Pacific in the 1940s including partners in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and the United States.

JET Alumni Association of British Columbia (JETAABC) (Saturday only・土曜日のみ)

JETAABC is the British Columbia / Yukon chapter of JETAA-International, the alumni association for participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. JETAABC was created in 1989 to strengthen and maintain bonds between participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme and Japan. JETプログラム同窓会(BC州&ユーコン準州支部)は1989年に設立された、JETプログラム参加者と日本の絆を維持するために活動している組織です。



Japanese Gardeners Association, photo by EFSchulte, 1985

FOOD BOOTHS

Taco Nori

salmon nori taco, spicy salmon nori taco, tuna nori taco, spicy tuna nori taco, chopped scallop nori taco, california nori taco, mango paradise nori taco, wakame nori taco, avocucumber nori taco

Tatchan Noodle

okinawa soba (pork belly), soki soba (soft pork rib with cartilage)

Tea Lani

powell 50th anniversary blend, seneca, hojicha, lavender earl grey, detox, calm, bright

Tenrikyo Yonomotokai

yakisoba, korroke

Teppan Yarro

japanese rice burger, pork gyoza, soda float with ice cream, soda float without ice cream

Teriyaki Boys

teriyaki rice bowl CHK OR PORK OR TOFU, ginger pork w tartar, ginger eggplant w tofu (vegan), garlic shrimp, ika yaki

Vancouver Japanese Language School (VJLS)

matcha deluxe shaved ice, rainbow shaved ice, regular shaved ice, combo a: okonomiyaki x1, yakitori x1, yaki-onigiri x1, combo b: okonomiyaki x1, yaki-onigiri x1, okonomiyaki: contains eggs and bonito powder (fish)

Vankoji Foods

shio-koji, shoyu-koji, bbq-koji, garlic-koji, koji tukudani, tamari-koji

Whatafood Food Services

brazilian cheese pastel, brazilian beef and pastel, brazilian chicken and cheese pastel, brazilian chicken crockett (7 units), brazilian cheese crockett (7 units), brazilian pop, acai cup (16oz)

Sai Plant Deli

oyaki (cheesy "keema", eggplant miso, spicy potato & peppers, garlic greens), karaage 8oz cup, karaage 16oz cup, karaage party tray 40oz, sauce (lemon pepper mayo, maple mustard)

Potato San

miso garlic potato, sweet miso potato, spicy miso potato

Salmon BBQ

Emi's Lunch Special: sockeye salmon served with kokuho rice and cole slaw, wild pacific, sockeye salmon only



Tamio Wakayama, 1979

Tochi

tochi half-size, tochi full-size, cream sando, strawberry sando, mango sando

Tonari Gumi

teriyaki chicken don with green Salad, teriyaki chicken don with green Salad combo w/tea, salmon soboro bento, salmon soboro combo w/tea, cold ramen, cold ramen combo w/tea, mochi-manju (2 pieces), barley tea, iced coffee

Vancouver Buddhist Temple

beef curry on rice, vegetable curry on rice, manju 6 pieces, ice cream, matcha lemonade, corn, mugicha, inari, fruit bars, non-alcoholic beer, watermelon

Aiyaohno Café

grilled mitadashi dango, grilled mochi, iced matcha latte, iced hojicha latte, iced strawberry matcha, iced strawberry hojicha latte, iced yuzu ginger, iced strawberry soda

Artisan Sakemaker

plain Amazake, flavoured amazake, sake raisin r-icecream, plain r-icecream, matcha adzuki r-icecream

Coconama

truffles, chocolate Bark, no sugar chocolate, chocolate box

Japanese Crepe Sasuke

strawberry crepe, banana crepe, half & half crepe, japanese Luxury crepe

JCCA

spam Musubi, spam and egg musubi, popscicles

Kanadell Japanese Bakery

animal breads, curry pan, melon pan, red bean bun, mochi cake, mini mochi bites, matcha cookies, shokupan, yuzu danish, mochi red bean pie

Konko Church

imagawayaki

Manpuku

ebikatsu burger, vegan katsu burger, truffle gyukatsu burger, teriyaki karaage burger, nashville style karaage burger, french fry, karaage, takoyaki



"Oishi" is what you hear all around the Festival about our Food Booths. There is something for everyone and all tastes. Our Japanese Canadian Community Partners use their booths as their major fundraisers. Be sure to support: Konko Church, Tonari Gumi, Vancouver Buddhist Temple, Tenrikyo Yonomotokai, Vancouver Japanese Language School/Japanese Hall, Japanese Canadian Citizen Association, Salmon BBQ.

The other Food Booths are local small businesses who are very proud of the food they serve.

See why people line up every year for their favourites.

- Michael Ouchi Food Booth Coordinator



Matthew Chun, 2025

CRAFT & MARKETPLACE

Explore arts and craft vendors along Alexander st. and inside the Japanese hall of VJLS

Nihiki Designs

Handcrafted intricate papercrafts, stationery, and linocut textile arts.

The Fed Up Potter

Hand-built ceramics featuring techniques like kurinuki and hakame brushwork, incorporate reclaimed maritime textures from Steveston.

UEDA MADE - Art, Comics & Goods

Heartfelt essay comics to original clothing—celebrating the small, meaningful moments of everyday life.

カナダ移住後の葛藤を経てアートで自己を再発見。日常の愛おしい瞬間を投影した漫画と服で、物語を届けます。

折華 Orika

(Saturday only • 土曜日のみ)

Japanese Traditional “Edo-Tsumami Zaiku” flower kanzashi and anime themed flower pins.

伝統工芸の江戸つまみ細工を用いて花簪やアニメテーマのピン等を作成しています。

Gift (Saturday only • 土曜日のみ)

ceramics (functional and non) and whimsical crochet and knit pieces.

Enn (Mizue Yamaura)

Haori, eco bags, pouches, and shoulder bags
羽織、エコバッグ、ポーチ、ショルダーバッグ

AKA HANNYA

Japanese inspired apparel. Items include stickers, hoodies, and tote bags.

Zoso-Kiln

Japanese family-run agriculture farm and ceramic pottery studio. Items include plates and cups.

HazyBee Studio

Hazy Bee Studio creates handcrafted jewelry and art with abstract experimentation.

Hazy Bee Studio は、子どものような鮮やかさと抽象的な実験精神を融合させた、手作りのジュエリーやアートを制作しています。日系カナダ人アーティスト、カーターエリンによって丁寧に作られた作品は、高品質でユニークなアイテムを通じて創造性を刺激し、日常の中で遊び心あふれる自己表現を楽しむことを目指しています。

Hitomi Mckenzie Porcelain Ceramics

Hand thrown crafted Porcelain Ceramics ranged from functional tableware to distinctive one of kind pieces like pots.

Club Nikkei (by Hello Yumiko)

Nikkei inspired pieces. Items include enamel pins, banners, prints, magnets, stickers, laser pins, keychains, and stickers.

日系カナダ人として、私たちのユニークな二文化と二言語のアイデンティティを伝える楽しい日系インスパイアのグッズを作っています。これらのアイテムは、私たちが「クラブ・日系」と遊び心で呼ぶコミュニティのために作りました。

Yuringo_Crafts

handmade jewelry inspired by Japanese aesthetics and nature. 日本の美意識や自然からインスピレーションを受けた、ハンドメイドジュエリーを制作しています。ひとつひとつ丁寧に仕上げ、伝統的な感性と現代的なデザインを融合させた、特別感のあるアクセサリーをお届けします。

JACLOT

Vibrant paintings inspired by Japanese culture, geometric design, and the natural landscapes of BC. Item include art prints and original paintings.

JACLOTはバンクーバーを拠点とする水彩画アーティストで、日本文化や幾何学的なデザイン、そしてBC州の自然風景から着想を得た鮮やかな作品を制作しています。伝統と想像力を融合させたオリジナル作品やプリントを展開しています。

BLUE & WHITE

Tote bags and zipper pouches handmade by using Sashiko (traditional Japanese embroidery technique.)

日本に古くから伝わる”刺し子”は、布がとて貴重だった時代に衣類の補強や防寒のために布を重ね、ひと針ひと針丁寧に刺し縫いして始められた物を大切に心と生活の知恵から生まれた日本の誇るべき伝統工芸です。この素晴らしい刺し子で日々の暮らしの中で使って楽しむバッグ、ポーチなどの小物を製作しています。昨年もパウエル祭でも大変好評を頂きました。

Krafts by Kiyomi

(Saturday only • 土曜日のみ)

Adorable handmade crochet amigurumi including kokeshi and daruma dolls.

Kazuko Cha

着物ジャケット、着物生地

Antler to Shimarisu (Yui Nakahori)
925 sterling silver jewelry, bronze jewelry, K14 gold-filled jewelry, and resin jewelry
シルバー925、ブロンズアクセサリー、K14ゴールド、レジン製のアクセサリー



Picchie Zakka

(Sunday only・日曜日のみ)

Handmade bags, trays, ornaments made from linen and cotton.

Picchie Zakkaがお届けするのは、和にインスパイアされた、毎日の暮らしをちょっと楽しくする雑貨たち。使いやすくて人にも環境にもやさしい、がコンセプト。コットンやリネンの天然素材をつかった、100%ハンドメイドの商品です。

Noriko & Co.

Simple and handcrafted creations made from Japanese fabric for everyday use, and greeting cards for any occasion.

日本の生地で作られた、毎日使えるシンプルな作品や、あらゆる機会に使えるグリーティングカード。商品はBC州バーナビーで手作りされています。

Karet

Jewellery brand created from natural materials such as flowers and mosses, inspired by ikebana, as well as recycled elements like clocks and wallpaper.

Karetは、花や草などの自然素材や、時計や壁紙などのリサイクル素材から生まれるユニークなジュエリーブランドです。どんな素材でも、時間をかけて丁寧にケアデザインすることで、唯一無二の素敵なジュエリーへと生まれ変わります。

Branches & Knots

Crafted fashion and lifestyle goods from Japan and Canada.

Branches & Knots は、West Broadwayにあるセレクトショップです。日本やカナダから、丁寧に作られたファッションやライフスタイルグッズをセレクトし、地域のコミュニティにご紹介しています。

品質、心地よさ、そして想いのこもったデザインのバランスを大切に、長く愛されるアイテムをお届けしています。

Mom's Care Natural Handmade Soap

Handmade soap is for people with dry, sensitive, or troubled skin. Made with natural and organic ingredients with no chemical use.

Mom's Careの石鹸はアトピーに苦しむ子と思う母の思いから作られています。化学添加物等は使わずに植物由来の天然素材を厳選し、1パッチずつ丁寧に作られた保湿力たっぷりのお肌に優しい石鹸です。

MAHOROBA design

One-of-a-kind handmade jewelry. Items include lime green charm earrings, Freshwater pearl & chain asymmetrical earrings, Necklaces, Rings, Indian embroidery fabric earrings, and more. まほろば — 日本の古語で「素晴らしい場所」、「理想郷」を意味します。変化の目まぐるしいこの時代に、理想を目指して生きる人たちに、優しく、そして力強く寄り添うハンドメイドジュエリーを作りたいとそんな思いを込めたブランドです。

Amrita Designs

Amrita designs creates lovely bags, pouches, coin cases and more with beautiful Japanese natural fabrics.

Amritadesignsは、美しい日本の天然素材を使って、バッグやポーチ、コインケースなどを心を込めて制作しています。この小物達があなたの一日を少しでも幸せにできますように。

Potteruki

Pottery made with Japanese tradition with a Pacific Northwest vibe. Items include plates and vases.

Japagoods

Goods imported from Japan, handmade hair accessories, and unique wall art crafted from traditional obi.

ジャパグッツは日本の可愛い製品を販売しています。華やかでおしゃれな、生活に彩りを添える作品を見に来てください。

Ripple & Rise

Japanese-Canadian and Scandinavian inspired art pieces. Items include prints, bags, and mini clay figures.

House of Kewpie

Art pieces made by a Nikkei artist. Items include stickers, prints, portraits, and belt chains.

私は物覚えがある頃から絵を描くのが好きで、絵を通して色んな人々と繋がる用になりました。特に小学生の頃、カナダへ移民したばかりで英語も喋れなかったけど、絵で言語を超え友達を作りました。今でも絵のお陰でコミュニティを繋げています。

Motomura Wares

Japanese-inspired pottery that blends tradition with modern living. Items include bowls, cups, and plates.

Mysgreen

Eco-friendly fabric products to challenge the zero waste

ゼロウェイストを目指すエコフレンドリーなファブリック製品

Would You Boutique

Handcrafted crochet flowers and Japan-inspired/Sakura-themed cute little accessories.

Vibrant Afternoon

Art inspired by Japan and Vancouver's diverse foods and landscapes.

「Vibrant Afternoon」の意味は、「まだ時間があるから、人生の素敵なことを楽しみましょう」です。北海道で英語を教えた経験のきっかけで、日本とバンクーバーの食べ物や景色の描きを謹呈します。

PenguinPurl Handmade

Handmade Japanese fabric flower (tsumami zaiku) art using the upcycled fabric scraps and materials.

Beauty secrets of Japan

Japanese natural bath and beauty products.

3世代で受け継がれた日本の素材にこだわったお風呂に関する商品を石鹸をはじめすべて手作りで販売しています。

MO's Pottery Studio

One-of-a-kind pottery pieces. Items include coffee cup & mugs, Futamono (container with lid), Plates, Bowls, Soap holder, Teapot, Hanging ornaments. ケレミオスを拠点に陶芸作家をしておりますMO's Pottery Studio です。使い手の方達の日常に少しでも笑顔、小さな喜びをもたらすことを願いながら一つ一つ、唯一無二の作品作りをしています。

Scandinazn

Scandinazn crafts imaginative Jewelry, inspired by the geometric shapes and Japanese-Scandinavian culture. Scandinaznはリサイクルレザーを素材として使い、手作りのジュエリーを製作しています。

Thé Vert Jewellery

Japanese-inspired modern jewelry made from various materials such as polymer clay. Items include necklaces, bracelets, rings, and nickel-free earrings.

Thé Vert Jewelleryは、オーガニックな要素、モダンなスタイル、時には和を取り入れたユニークなハンドメイドアクセサリーショップです。

毎日のコーデに無理なく溶け込むような作品、そして単なる装飾品ではなく、あなたのスタイルや世界観とのつながりを反映するアクセサリーを提供することを目指しています。

Meditating Bunny Studio Inc.

Emmy nominated boutique animation and publishing company that produces and publishes books, art and films.

Meditating Bunny Studio Inc. は、2001年に四世カナダ人の作家、イラストレーター、アーティスト、映画監督、プロデューサーであるジェフ・チバ・スターンズによって設立された、エミー賞にノミネートされたブティックアニメーションおよび出版会社です。ジェフは、この会社を通じて、日系カナダ人と多民族のアイデンティティをテーマにした書籍、アート、映画を制作、出版しています。



WaQ's Sushi

25 years at PSF! - Sushi Candles, Dim Sum Candles, Knitted Daikon, Kaki and Nasu and other sushi and food-themed items all made by local crafter. not edible!

Tien the Wizard

Asian style pieces like prosperity coins, jades, silver castings of asian icons, and other gemstone pieces, symbology, men's, all gendered and pride pieces. Also Fu Bao - Good luck bundles with herbs and resins.

Sleepless Kao

Dreamy, nostalgic art pieces. Items include greeting cards, tote bags, prints, and art goods, bringing subtle warmth to everyday life. Sleepless Kaoは、音や記憶の断片に耳を澄ましなが、絵を紡ぐ日系カナダ人アーティストです。やさしくノスタルジックな作品を、グリーティングカード、トートバッグ、プリント、アートグッズとして展開しています。

Kira Crafts and Jewellery

Handmade earrings, rings, jewelry, hair accessories, and pens using traditional Japanese origami and Japanese flowers.

Bomul

Handmade jewelry brand inspired by the fleeting beauty of nature. Pieces are made with dried flowers and natural textures preserved in resin. Bomulは、自然のはかなさと美しさからインスピレーションを受けたハンドメイドジュエリーブランドです。ドライフラワーや自然の質感など、日本の美意識に、やわらかくモダンな雰囲気を重ね、繊細な瞬間をレジンに閉じ込め、一点一点丁寧に制作しています。

Pac West Kimono

Traditional kimonos and modern interpretations, catering to all ages with options for both kids and adults. 20年以上にわたり、個性豊かな日本のアパレル、アクセサリー、家庭用品を取り扱う信頼できるショップです。伝統的な着物から、モダンテイストのものまで、お子様から大人まで、あらゆる年齢層の方々にご満足いただける商品を取り揃えています。美しく魅力的なアイテムを幅広く取り揃えています。ぜひブースにお立ち寄りいただき、厳選されたセレクションをご覧ください。

Beads Ya

Jewelry made with colourful and small beads - that is the work of the Beads Ya. Items include rings, earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. 色とりどりの小さなビーズから作られているジュエリー、それがビーズ屋の作品です。色にこだわって作られたレットロでキュートなビーズのジュエリーをお楽しみください。

Minori Takagi

Hand crafted glass jewelry. Items include rings, necklaces, and bracelets. ハンドメイドのガラスのアクセサリー

MAMEYO Goods

(Saturday only • 土曜日のみ)

Handmade leather goods inspired by Japanese culture. Items include keychains, notebook covers, wallets, bags, and pouches.



Sasaki Art Gallery

Products made from Japanese washi paper and textiles. This expression manifests in clothing, paintings, and card making. Sasaki Art Gallery は37年間日系カナダアーティストの促進の為に展示、販売を downtown、Pan Pacific Hotelのロビー階にて展開しています。

Siamurai Apparel & Mukashinoboro Mingei Studio

Handmade Japanese-inspired streetstyle apparel that they designed are made with custom oriental prints fabric, digital art and some are with vintage uncycled Japanese fabric. Items include noragi-style kimonos, hoodies, samurai pants, ninja pants, skirts, and tabi shoes.

Capture+ Wire Jewelry

Wire bended jewelry with gemstones. Items include necklaces, rings, earrings, and bracelets. ワイヤーと天然石を用いた日常に自然と溶け込む実用的な一点もののハンドメイドワイヤージュエリー。独自のワイヤー技法と感性を活かし、素材の表情や余白を大切にしながら、控えめでありつつも印象に残るデザインを丁寧に仕立てています。



Return to Paueru Gai:



50 Years of Powell Street Festival

Location: Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7
Tuesday to Friday, 10 am - 6 pm Saturday & Sunday, 10 am to 5:00 pm
Open until September 5, 2026.

This retrospective exhibition, curated by Emiko Morita, celebrates the art and activism of the Japanese Canadian community's annual festival through photographs, videos and installations. Exhibition highlights include Otsukare, an installation of volunteer hachimaki (headbands) spanning a 14-foot length; Macro Maki, the popular giant sushi costumes; a Daruma Well-Wishing Station that invites guests to add their own wishes; a collection of festival posters; and rare archival videos.

Morita says, "This project aims to connect the festival's core values and traits to tangible facts and lived memory so that it might serve as a meaningful resource for future generations. Interactive elements, photographs, and a variety of reflections offer insight into the foundational values, quiet strengths—and energetic chaos!—that have sustained the festival and made it a vital force in our community."



Photos by Joshua McVeity

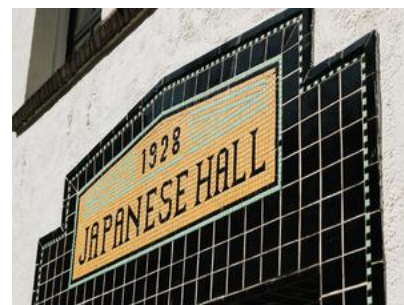
Vancouver Japanese Language School Heritage Experience

Saturday, August 1 @ 1:30 – 2:00 PM and 3:00 – 3:30 PM

Sunday, August 2 @ 1:30 – 2:00 PM and 3:00 – 3:30 PM

Step inside one of Vancouver's oldest Japanese Canadian heritage sites during this special milestone Powell Street Festival weekend.

For 120 years, the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall (VJLS-JH) has been a gathering place for learning, culture, and community.



That it exists at all is a remarkable story. During the Second World War, Japanese Canadians were forcibly uprooted and relocated to internment camps outside of coastal British Columbia. VJLS-JH's board members worked from internment camps and distant cities to protect the school, trusting that the community would one day gather here again. Their determination paid off, and they successfully retained the land titles to 437 and 475 Alexander Street. Today, it stands as one of the few surviving pre-war Japanese Canadian institutions still operated by the community it was built to serve and has been designated by the federal government as a National Historic Site.

During the festival, visitors will have the rare opportunity to explore the heritage wing at 475 Alexander Street – originally built in 1928 as a space for after-school Japanese language classes and community gatherings. Guests of all ages are invited to experience place-based history in an immersive 30-minute journey that blends past and present Japanese Canadian culture. While visiting, guests will enjoy a short presentation on the school and local history, view exclusive photographs and archival materials that illustrate decades of Powell Street memories, and participate in old-school Japanese-language activities in an early-20th-century classroom. They may even take home some unique souvenirs inspired by their experience.



Attendance at this ticketed event is free, but space is limited. As a charitable organization, VJLS-JH greatly appreciates donations, which support its diverse programming and community services.



Visit the JCLS Booth at the Powell Street Festival

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS), created to honour the legacies of Japanese Canadians in BC, developed and implemented four distinct pillars based on a 2020 framework: Education, Heritage, Seniors Health & Wellness, and Community & Culture. Recognizing the forced uprooting of the 1940s that scattered our community, 66% of all funds the JCLS received from the Province of BC was allocated nationally to: 1) the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund for health support grants to over 5,000 survivors; and 2) the Community Fund, which held competitive grant streams in scholarships, community projects, infrastructure, arts, sports and intergenerational wellness. 1,130 grants were allocated to individuals, groups and organizations with the goal of strengthening community, including intergenerational family ties. While these national grant streams have closed, JCLS remains engaged in developing places of memory in BC with nearly 50 Heritage and Legacy projects underway across 40 locations, including the Monument in Victoria. In the Powell Street neighbourhood, the JCLS is committed to supporting the Powell Street Festival Society, the Vancouver Buddhist Temple, and the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall – the future site of the Community Space project.

This year we are supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Powell Street Festival and its enduring legacy. We are honored to contribute to PSF's showcase of 33 JCLS projects funded through the Community Fund.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to community members and allies across the country who have supported this work, including the assessment and advisory teams, the JCLS Board of Directors, the JCSHWFS Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff. We continue this work with your support. *Otsukaresama desu.*

Visit us at the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society booth over the Powell Street Festival weekend to learn more about the work we are doing, just to chat, or to try your hand at *gyotaku* 魚拓, the Japanese art of fish printing. We're in the south-west corner of the park. At our booth, learn about the Japanese Canadian Monument, set to open this fall in Victoria. Sign up on the spot for a guided tour on October 4, 5, 6, or 7. The centerpiece of the Monument is a 300-foot-long wall consisting of 100 granite panels listing the names of the nearly 22,000 uprooted Japanese Canadians alongside over 3,000 children born during the internment era (1942 – 1949). Descendant families will be able to see their ancestors grouped by their places of uprooting, allowing for a symbolic return to the neighbourhoods and communities we once called home.

The Monument is a key part of 追憶 *Tsuioku* (Places of Memory), our ongoing mapping project documenting Japanese Canadian Heritage and Legacy sites across British Columbia, keeping these histories alive for future generations. We'll have information available at the booth.

The *gyotaku* workshop offered at our tent highlights a brand new three-lesson teaching unit on Japanese-CanadianHistory.com. Water, Fish, Stone, by artist Paula Nishikawara and teacher Sandra Sugimoto, teaches three traditional Japanese print-making techniques: *gyotaku* 魚拓 (fish printing), *suminagashi* 墨流し (paper marbling), and *takuhon* 拓本 (rubbing). We'll also be showcasing Patterns of Injustice by Richmond master teacher Andrea Phillpotts, examining present-day warning signs through the lens of the Japanese Canadian experience, making the history relevant to a new generation of learners.



Gyotaku (Fish Printing) Workshops at the Powell Street Festival

SATURDAY 12PM – 2PM | 3PM – 5PM

SUNDAY 12PM – 3PM

JCLS BOOTH

Gyotaku 魚拓 (fish printing) is one of many Japanese art forms that interpret the natural world through careful observation and simple, beautiful means, turning everyday materials into something that can be shared, preserved, and passed on.

The materials used in *gyotaku* don't belong to any one culture or race. The fish used could be a Pacific salmon — a fish central to both Japanese Canadian fishing heritage and to Indigenous peoples of the coast for thousands of years. The water the fish are pulled from is the same water that connects us all. Join artist Paula Nishikawara in this special hand-on workshop and discover the artist within.

There are two sessions on Saturday and one session on Sunday, registration is first-come-first-served.

Save the Dates: Japanese Canadian Places of Memory



**JAPANESE
CANADIAN
LEGACIES**

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) works to preserve and share the history of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia — honouring the pre-war communities that thrived here, and bearing witness to the injustices they endured during and after the war. We welcome everyone to attend the confirmed openings listed below. Please visit jclegacies.com/save-the-dates for a continually updated list of dates. Subscribe to our newsletter at jclegacies.com.

OPENS AUGUST 16, 2026

Mayne Island Japanese Canadian Legacies Project
Organization: Mayne Island Agricultural Society

Promoting awareness of Mayne Island's Japanese Canadian history at three sites: restoration work at the Japanese Memorial Garden, information panels at the Miners Bay wharf, and an outdoor exhibit at the Mayne Island Museum.

📍 430 Fernhill Road, Mayne Island, BC

✉ Michael Kilpatrick: michael@michaeldesign.ca

OPENS AUGUST 29, 2026 | 2PM

Ucluelet Japanese Canadian History Pavilion
Organization: Ucluelet & Area Historical Society



Overlooking Ucluelet Harbour near the site of one of the six Japanese Canadian villages that once lined the harbour before the 1942 internment and dispersal, the Pavilion commemorates the Japanese Canadian families who helped build the community and acknowledges the profound losses suffered during the internment era, while celebrating the resilience of those

who rebuilt their lives after the war.

📍 Imperial Lane at Matterson Drive, Ucluelet, BC

✉ Jaqueline Chamberland: jchamberland@telus.net

OPENS SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Westridge Park Reflection Space
Organization: Heritage Abbotsford Society

Commemorating Abbotsford's Japanese Canadian community builders in an area that was once the heart of a thriving Japanese Canadian community.

📍 Westridge Park, Abbotsford, BC (TBA)

✉ Chandni Sharma: csharma@abbotsford.ca

✉ Public inquiries: events@abbotsford.ca

OPENS SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Remembering and Honouring Japanese Canadians in Chemainus
Organization: Chemainus Festival of Murals Society

Art installation remembers and honours Japanese Canadians in Chemainus through a large mural featuring a montage of Japanese Canadians' involvement in the fishing industry, the forestry industry, and in the community.

📍 TBA

✉ Shannon Bellamy: FOMVicePresident@muraltown.com

✉ Doreen Zielke: FOMTreasurer@muraltown.com

OPEN FOR VIEWING JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 2026

None Came Back

Organization: Chemainus Valley Museum



Exploring the history and experiences of Japanese Canadians in Chemainus and the surrounding area including the early arrival of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Canadian neighbourhoods, wartime dispossession and displacement.

📍 Chemainus Museum, Chemainus, BC

OPENS SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Nexwéléxm (Bowen Island): Making Peace with the Past, Creating Hope for the Future (working title)

Organization: Bowen Island Museum & Archives

Exploring the lives of Japanese Canadians on Nexwéléxm and Átl'ka7tsem.

📍 Sandy Beach Municipal Park, Bowen Island, BC

✉ Kathryn Gaitens: bicurator@telus.net

OPENS SEPTEMBER 2026 (DATE TBA)

Japanese Garden Public Art Project

Organization: University of Victoria

Permanent public art by local Nikkei and Indigenous community members on the site of Nikkei settlement and dispossession along the Upper Gorge Waterway

📍 Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion, Victoria, BC

✉ Andrea Mariko Grant: andreamarikogrant@uvic.ca

✉ elihirtle@gmail.com

OPENS SEPTEMBER 2026 (DATE TBA)



Momiji Garden Restoration

Organization: Pacific National Exhibition

Replacing the aging teahouse/gazebo at Momiji Garden at the Pacific National Exhibition. Delivered in partnership with the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association, the project supports the long term preservation of this important Japanese Canadian cultural space.

📍 Momiji Garden, PNE, Vancouver, BC



OPENS OCTOBER 4 TO 7, 2026

Monument in Victoria – opening week events

Organization: Japanese Canadian Legacies Society

The Japanese Canadian Monument will be unveiled in Victoria beginning with a nation-wide livestream on October 3, followed by guided tours on October 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Monument is open for all visitors any time after October 3.

📍 **839 Academy Close, Victoria, BC**

✉️ **opening@jclgacies.com**

For more information on the guided tours and to register, visit japanesecanadianmonument.eventbrite.ca



OPENS OCTOBER 15, 2026

A Degree of Justice: The Enduring Legacy of the 76 Japanese Canadian UBC Students of 1942

Organization: University of British Columbia



Publicly accessible online exhibition and permanent marker at UBC Vancouver commemorating the 76 Japanese Canadian students removed from UBC in 1942.

📍 **UBC Campus TBA**

✉️ **Szu Shen: acam.program@ubc.ca**

OPENS OCTOBER 16, 2026

Tracing Japanese Canadian Settlement on Northern Vancouver Island

Organization: Campbell River & District Museum & Archives Society

Research and interpretation project documenting and sharing the history of Japanese Canadian settlement and industry in northern Vancouver Island. Visit crmuseum.ca for seasonal hours.

📍 **Museum at Campbell River, Campbell River, BC**

✉️ **Tamasyn Kennedy: project.manager@crmuseum.ca**



OPENS OCTOBER 22, 2026

Centennial Park Interpretive Tea House

Organization: City of Mission

A Japanese tea house-style community gathering space in Centennial Park commemorating the history and contributions of Mission's Japanese Canadian community.

📍 **Centennial Park, Mission, BC**

✉️ **Mark Haney: mark.haney@mission.ca**



OPENS OCTOBER 24, 2026

Historic Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall Interpretive Centre Project

Organization: Vancouver Japanese Language School

Celebrating its 120th anniversary in 2026, VJLS will launch its Interpretive Centre, Prevailing through Internment 「インターンメント」を乗り越えて, to tell moving stories of cultural identity, state oppression, integrity, perseverance and hope.

📍 **487 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC**

✉️ **Yoshi Sugiyama: ysugiyama@vjls-jh.com**

✉️ **Deb Saimoto: dsaimoto@vjls-jh.com**

OPENS OCTOBER 25, 2026

Mountain View Cemetery

Organization: City of Vancouver

Preserving and commemorating Japanese Canadian heritage at Mountain View Cemetery through the restoration of historic Japanese Canadian grave markers, landscape enhancements, and new interpretive signage.

📍 **Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, BC**

✉️ **Ryan MacLeod: ryan.macleod@vancouver.ca**

OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Revitalization & Cultural Enhancement of Nitobe Memorial Garden

Organization: University of British Columbia

Revitalizing and enhancing Nitobe Memorial Garden through major infrastructure improvements, new interpretive signage, expanded cultural programming, and public engagement initiatives.

📍 **Nitobe Memorial Garden, Vancouver, BC**

✉️ **Kai Owa: kai.owa990@gmail.com**

OPENS NOVEMBER 2026 (DATE TBA)

Commemorating Surrey's Early Japanese Canadians

Organization: City of Surrey

Creating three points of community connection to bring early Japanese Canadian experiences in Surrey to the forefront.

📍 **R.A. Nicholson Park, Surrey, BC**

✉️ **Kristin Hardie: kristin.hardie@surrey.ca**

OPENS NOVEMBER 2026 (DATE TBA)

Steveston Japanese Canadian Boatbuilding Heritage Project

Organization: City of Richmond

Documenting, preserving, and sharing the history of the Japanese Canadian boatbuilding community in Steveston through archival research, oral history interviews, restoration of the Japanese built fishing vessel *Crystall S*, and the creation of new exhibits at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site.

📍 **Britannia Shipyards, Richmond, BC**

✉️ **Talya Mallek: TMallek@richmond.ca**

OPENS DECEMBER 12, 2026

Place-Based Research and Dissemination of the History of Japanese Canadian Residents of New Westminster

Organization: City of New Westminster

Researching, documenting, and sharing the history of New Westminster's Japanese Canadian community through a public educational resource and a series of interpretive signs drawing on new archival research, community stories, and oral histories.

📍 **TBA**

✉️ **Contact: Rob McCullough: 604.527.4639**

OPENS APRIL 17 , 2027

McGregor Park Waterfront Interpretive Walkway & Beban Park Nanaimo Nikkei Legacy Performing, Gathering & Commemorating Space
Organizations: City of Nanaimo & Central Vancouver Island Japanese Canadian Society

Heritage spaces at MacGregor Park and Beban Social Centre in Nanaimo recognize the vibrant pre-war Japanese Canadian community that once thrived along Nanaimo's waterfront and surrounding neighbourhoods.

📍 **McGregor Park & Beban Park, Nanaimo, BC**
✉️ **Deborah Beck:** Deborah.Beck@nanaimo.ca
✉️ **Payton Carter:** Payton.Carter@nanaimo.ca

OPENS APRIL 18 , 2027

Cumberland Japanese Canadian Legacy Project
Organization: Village of Cumberland

New heritage installations including the historic No. 1 Japanese Townsite, Nikkei no Haka (Japanese Cemetery), and Nikkei Park.

📍 **No. 1 Japanese Townsite, Coal Creek Historic Park, Cumberland, BC**
✉️ **Jillian Roberts:** 250.336.0085

OPENS APRIL 24 , 2027

Japanese Garden at Jim Hadgkiss Park & Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian History Revitalization Project
Organization: City of Maple Ridge & Maple Ridge Museum & Archives

Connected projects preserve and share the history of Maple Ridge's Japanese Canadian community through both digital and physical spaces.

📍 **Jim Hadgkiss Park, Maple Ridge, BC**
✉️ **Chad Neufeld:** PRC@mapleridge.ca

OPENS MAY 8 , 2027

Langham Restoration & Museum Modernization – Kaslo
Organization: Langham Cultural Society

Building upgrades, restoration work, and development of new exhibits and interpretive experiences.

📍 **The Langham, Kaslo, BC**
✉️ **Charissa Hoppenbrouwers:** info@thelangham.ca (public inquiries)
✉️ **executivedirector@thelangham.ca** (media inquiries)

OPENING TBA

Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre & Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre Interior Renovations
Organization: Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre Society

Names wall recognizing approximately 8,000 Japanese Canadians who passed through Hastings Park, interpretive displays, public art installations, accessibility improvements, and building infrastructure enhancements.

📍 **Hastings Park Livestock Building, Vancouver, BC**



OPENING TBA

Honouring the Legacy of Local Japanese Canadians – Prince Rupert
Organization: City of Prince Rupert

Creating a commemorative space in Mariners Memorial Park that recognizes the history, contributions, and legacy of Japanese Canadians in Prince Rupert and on the North Coast.

📍 **Mariner's Park, Prince Rupert, BC**

OPENING TBA

Commemoration of Japanese Canadians of Ocean Falls
Organization: Ocean Falls Improvement District

Preserving and commemorating the history of Japanese Canadians in Ocean Falls through enhancements to the Japanese Canadian cemetery and the development of a new interpretive centre.

📍 **Ocean Falls, BC (TBA)**
✉️ **Dylan Coburn:** ofid86@gmail.com

OPENING TBA

Rehabilitation and Storytelling Project of the Miyazaki Heritage House
Organization: District of Lillooet

Combining the rehabilitation of the historic Miyazaki Heritage House with the development of new permanent exhibits that share the history of Japanese Canadians in the Lillooet region: the Dr. Masajiro Miyazaki Life & Story Exhibit and the Internment Food Art Exhibit.

📍 **Miyazaki House, Lillooet, BC**

OPENING TBA

Steveston Park Legacy Walk
Organization: Steveston Community Society

The Steveston Park Legacy Walk will create a connected and accessible interpretive experience that links existing Japanese Canadian heritage features throughout Steveston Community Park. Through pathway improvements, wayfinding, landscaping, signage, and digital content, the project will share the history, experiences, and contributions of Japanese Canadians in Richmond while creating a cohesive visitor experience that connects key commemorative sites across the park.

📍 **Steveston Community Park, Richmond, BC**



All BC Heritage and place-based Legacies projects are open to the public. Sites that have been opened to date include Salt Spring Island, Gabriola Island, Greenwood, Port Edward, Tashme, Galiano Island, Sandon, and Maple Ridge. Visit jclegacies.com/places-of-memory-heritage-and-legacy-sites for info.

Join us at upcoming openings or visit the sites any time after they are open. Most sites can be visited year-round. Visit jclegacies.com/place-of-memory-heritage-and-legacy-sites



JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACIES

追憶

PLACES OF MEMORY

Japanese immigrants began arriving in British Columbia

in the 1870s. Working primarily in forestry, fishing, and agriculture, they established communities up and down the west coast. By 1942, nearly 200 distinct communities had formed, complete with schools, businesses, and places of worship. Overnight, those communities were erased from the map as nearly 22,000 people were stripped of their possessions, property, and livelihoods. Exiled from their coastal homes, they were incarcerated in interior ghost towns, made shift camps, or forced onto prairie sugar beet farms.

In retracing these historic landscapes, we honour a community with deep roots in this province—one that worked to build a home here and persevered in the face of systemic injustice. These “places of memory,” a collective designation for BC Heritage and Legacy Projects that focus on pre-war settlement areas and include war time internment camps and self-supporting sites, are indicated on this map with a ■.

By marking these locations, we acknowledge the complex history etched into this province, reconnecting community to the land as a step towards place-based healing and remembrance.



ke

COLUMBIA

ALBERTA

Prince George

Williams Lake

Interior & Kootenays

Powell River

Gabriola Is

Nanaimo

Chemainus

Duncan

Victoria

INSET Lower Mainland

Galliano Is

Mayne Is

Salt Spring Is

Lillooet

Miyazaki House

Kamloops

Salmon Arm

Coldstream

Kelowna

Midway

Greenwood

Christina Lake

Grand Forks

Trail

Cranbrook

UNITED STATES

INSET Lower Mainland

Bowen Island

W. Vancouver

N. Vancouver

Nitobe
Gardens
at UBC

VJLS-JH

Vancouver

Mountain View Cemetery

New Westminster

Richmond

Steveston

Surrey / Strawberry Hill

Pitt Meadows

Maple Ridge

Mission

Abbotsford



TSUIOKU
CHASING
MEMORIES

INSET Slocan Valley & Kaslo Internment Camps

Nakusp

New Denver

Rosebery

Sandon

Kaslo

Slocan City

Popoff

Daylarm

Lemon Creek

Nelson

Castlegar

INSET Slocan Valley & Kaslo Internment Camps

Revelstoke

Salmon Arm

Coldstream

Kelowna

Midway

Greenwood

Christina Lake

Grand Forks

Trail

Cranbrook

UNITED STATES

View Full Festival Schedule at powellstreetfestival.com

2026 JAPANESE CANADIAN YOUTH COHORT

The Powell Street Festival Society (PSFS) believes that investing in youth is investing in the future of Japanese Canadian arts and culture.

The Japanese Canadian Youth Cohort is our flagship youth initiative. Designed for Japanese Canadians ages 19–29 living outside the Greater Vancouver area, the program provides a fully immersive, hands-on summer experience in cultural event production and community engagement.

Beyond the Japanese Canadian Youth Cohort, PSFS facilitates year-round programming for youth in Vancouver and surrounding areas. These initiatives create spaces for youth to engage creatively, socially, and culturally, while fostering intergenerational exchange.

A hallmark of PSFS youth programming is intergenerational engagement. Youth are paired with festival volunteers, professional artists, and elders in collaborative projects. Meet this year's cohort: Iene, Kailey, and Trevor!



COMMUNITY CARE

The Powell Street Festival Society (PSFS) shares a deep relationship with the Downtown Eastside (DTES) rooted in historic ties, solidarity, and a shared understanding of what it means to be displaced. Since before its inception, the founders of the Festival were working in the neighbourhood to support Japanese Canadian (JC) seniors, establishing Tonari Gumi, as well as fighting for federal redress for the JC community.

Our work affirms the JC community's commitment to equity and social justice in the DTES, especially in the DTES Oppenheimer District (DEOD) which maps directly onto Paueru Gai, the historic JC neighbourhood that once housed over 8,000 JCs. While we acknowledge our role as settler colonizers, the uprooting of our community from this very same area in 1942 brings a deep understanding of the long-term impacts of forced removal. We recognize the critical importance of supporting current residents in protecting their homes and their rights.

Our Community Care programming is one way that we action our support and solidarity as we work to be a part of this neighbourhood. By hiring people with lived experience from the DTES community, supporting DTES Grocery Delivery programs and distributing Winter Care Packages as well as holding annual events in Oppenheimer Park – including Setsubun, the Hanami Cherry Blossom Picnic, the Asahi Tribute Game, and Minori Harvest – where we offer 300+ free meals per event and arts / historic / sports programming, we work to leverage funding and resources to support the local community. We are grateful to the DTES community that has taught us so much, and to the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall, WePress, Fujiya, Forstbauer Family Natural Food Farm, Athiana Acres for their donations (contributions?) to these programs.

We will continue to stand in solidarity with Indigenous and low-income communities facing ongoing displacement and marginalization. At the heart of this relationship is a connection to place – and after 50 years, we continue our commitment to Paueru Gai. This solidarity is not peripheral to our work at PSFS, it is central to it.

1,000+

Hours of low-barrier employment for DTES residents facing poverty and homelessness

1,400

Meals made and served at DTES workshops and gatherings

150+

Winter care packages with food, clothing, toiletries, and art supplies

10

Arts & culture events sharing Japanese Canadian voices across Vancouver and beyond

8

Free community care events building solidarity in the DTES

ABOUT US

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russell Chiong President
Kevin Takahide Lee Vice President
Reiko Anderson Secretary
Rachel Nakamura Treasurer
Edward Takayanagi Director
Asia Harvey Director
Kevin Kondo Director
Andy Koji Grellman Director



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Vanessa Matsubara Arts and Cultural Programmer
Sena Cleave Development Associate
Anna Goddu Communications Associate
Lisa Fylypchuk Volunteer Engagement Lead
Ella Tani Communications and Graphic Design Assistant

Alia Friesen Production Assistant
Miyuki Yamaguchi Espada Production Assistant
Kaitlyn Nunotani Production Assistant
Emma Anderson Program Assistant

PSF50 Graphics Ella Tani
Daruma Graphics Flynn Yamauchi
Festival Guide Powell Street Festival Society



COORDINATORS

Children's tent

Kaitlyn Nunotani, Anne Chen, Seth Breen,
Sean Chen, Shai Pierre-Dixon, Margaret
Nakamura, Wilson Chen

Community booth / seniors tent

Jason Qian, Bohmee Kim

Craft/marketplace

Hiromi Mikasa

Diamond stage

Kathy Shimizu, Helen Kang, Lara McBean, Cat
Renay, Shirley Lum

Dispatch

Reiko Anderson, Lenita Wong, Andre Chan,
Emiko Morita, Paul Okano

Environment Stephanie Fylypchuk, Dash Reid,
Anaïs Peterson

Firehall Theatre

Michael Turner, Esther Rausenberg

Floater

Matteo Bir

Food Booths

Michael Ouchi, Andy Grellmann, Grover Wong

Hospitality and Security Eddy Takayanagi,
Russell Chiong, Iris Yong, Chris Livingstone,
Jennifer Michiko Buck

Info Mayu Takasaki

Interactive zone Kevin Kondo, Nikhil Garg,
Mika Takee

Lottery Julie Hofer

Festival Merchandise Miko Hoffman, Nina
Inaoka Lee, Colin Chan

Signage Sahali Tsang, Lara McBean, Emi
Macrae, Hogai Salem

Set up and Take Down

Kathy Shimizu, Jon Nakane, Allan Nakade,
Scott Chan, John Nguyen, Rico Escalante,
Benafsha Salem, Andrew Latimer, Sheree
Shigehiro, Sam Blundell, Charity Harwell

Street Stage Kristen Lambertson, Zoe Leung

Sumo JCYC Cohort

Survey Rachel nakamura

Traffic Sue Arai, Meghan Arai, Kyle Comeau,
Sheree Shigehiro

Satellite Merch / Info Booth Anika Ihara

Volunteer Chill Space Asia Harvey, Marvin
Petlaver, Nikki Nguyen

2026 PSFS LOTTERY

The PSF Lottery has been a festival tradition since the 1980s, thanks to the the community partners who donate the prizes, the community groups who sell tickets as their own fundraiser, and the festival goers who show their support. This year's prizes have been generously donated by our longstanding partners, with a grand prize of two round-trip flights from Vancouver to Tokyo. Buy tickets in advance from community partners, online, or at the festival.

Grand Prize: Two round trip flights

from Vancouver to Tokyo!

Draw: Sunday August 2: 6:00 pm



Winners will be announced at Lottery Booth, Diamond, and Street Stages within 30 min of each draw

Saturday Draws

1 August 12:00pm

Music & reading Corner Prize Pack valued at \$140.00

Three \$25 Lucky's Books and Comics Gift Certificate from Mint Records, Tomey—The Unyielding Spirit of Tomekichi Homma and Ojiichan's Dragon from Meditating Bunny Studio

1 August 2:00pm

Jewelry and Photos Prize pack valued at \$473.00

Self-Portrait Session for up to 4 people from Nami Studio, Tien the Wizard Jewelry Set, Tien the Wizard and an Azuma Bag Small Size from Picchie Zakka

1 August 3:00pm

Kathy Shimizu Art Print \$375.00

1 August 4:00pm

Art Lover Prize Pack valued at \$519.00

House of Kewpie Art Print, House of Kewpie Post Card, House of Kewpie Sticker from House of Kewpie, Large framed print "Me and my fluffy four legged buddies", Medium framed print "Tsuzuri", Small matted print "Fly Fly Fly", and Sleepless Kao tote bag from Sleepless Kao

1 August 6:00pm

Dance and Dinner Prize Pack valued at \$825.00

Three VIDF 2027 Festival Pass from Vancouver International Dance Festival, a Dosanko Gift Certificate from Dosanko, three \$25 Red Cat Records Gift Certificates from Mint Records, and an Ask for Luigi Gift Certificate from Ask for Luigi

Sunday Draws

2 August 12:00pm

Reading Corner Prize Pack valued at \$261.00

Iron Dog Books Gift Certificate from Iron Dog Books, three \$25 Lucky's Books and Comics Gift Certificate from Mint Records, Mixed Critters Book, Nori and His Delicious Dreams Book, and On Being Yukiko Book from Meditating Bunny Studio, Sleepless Kao tote bag from Sleepless Kao, Take Out Box of Chinese Dim Sum Candles from WaQ's Sushi, and a Kewpie Tote Bag from House of Kewpie.

2 August 2:00pm

Fashion Lover Prize Pack valued at \$1,104.00

Two Siamurai Apparel Garments from Siamurai Apparel, Branches & Knots Dress and Top from Branches & Knots along with a Kimono, Obi and Tabi shoes from Pac West Kimono.

2 August 4:00pm

Music Corner Prize Pack valued at \$450.00

Pair of Proficient C612 In Wall Speakers from Santel Communications, Audio-Technica AT-LP60X turntable from Mint Records, and three \$25 Red Cat Records Gift Certificates from Mint Records

2 August 4:00pm

Whistler Vacation Prize Pack valued at \$1,068.00

1-night stay at the Listel Hotel Whistler from Listel Hotel Whistler, Branches & Knots Dress from Branches & Knots, two Siamurai Apparel Garments from Siamurai Apparel, Bento of Sushi Candles from WaQ's Sushi, and a medium Azuma Bag from Picchie Zakka

Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-795-6111

www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca

Know your limit, Play within it. 19+

Held at Oppenheimer Park 400 Powell St., Vancouver • Attendance not required, winners will be contacted • Winners consent to the release of their names by the licensee • Ticket Purchasers must be 19 years of age or older • If a winning ticket bears a minors name, the prize will be lawfully delivered to the minors parent, legal guardian or trustee • 9,999 tickets printed • BC Gaming Event License #174806 • Licensee: Powell Street Festival Society • 410-111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver • info@powellstreetfestival.com • 604-739-9388

Our Next 50 Years



For the past 50 years, our community has carried us through triumphs and challenges, building our festival and year-round programs from the ground up. This year, we are thrilled to launch the Powell Street Festival Society Endowment Fund, made possible by a transformative gift from the Hirai family. With the launch of the endowment fund and the expansion of our annual and project funds, we are working to secure a vibrant future for Japanese Canadian arts and culture. To realize this vision, we are calling on the full strength of our community: families, businesses, artists, mentors, advocates, volunteers, and friends. Together, let's invest in our next 50 years, and build a brighter future.

The Endowment Fund:

Held at the Vancouver Foundation, the endowment fund provides stable, year-round support for arts and community programming for decades to come; nurtures emerging and intergenerational artists, preserving tradition while encouraging creative growth; and sustains essential operations to ensure high-quality festival experiences every year.

The Annual Fund:

The annual fund supports PSFS' day-to-day operations and year-round programming. Unlike the Endowment Fund, it provides immediate, flexible resources that make current programs and community initiatives possible.

Legacy Giving and Planned Gifts:

Legacy gifts ensure Japanese Canadian arts and culture continue well into the future. Planned giving allows donors to create meaningful, long-term impact in ways that align with their financial and estate plans.

Bequests: Gifts through wills or estate plans
Charitable Remainder Trusts: Providing income to donors or beneficiaries during their lifetime, with remainder funding PSFS
Life Insurance & Annuities: Offering predictable, lasting support

DONOR RECOGNITION



At our 50th Anniversary Dinner & Celebration held earlier this year, the Hirai family presented a landmark gift of \$250,000 to the Powell Street Festival Society. The Hirai family's dedication to the Japanese Canadian community is deeply intertwined with the history of the Powell Street Festival: in 1977, the same year as the inaugural festival, Shig Hirai opened the first Fujiya store on Powell Street. This year, Fujiya (now an icon of Japanese foods and a cultural hub for Japanese Canadians in Vancouver and beyond) and Powell Street Festival are celebrating our shared 50th anniversaries.

Among many significant contributions to Powell Street Festival, Shig was a longtime organizer of the annual sumo tournament and Fujiya has established a tradition of donating the tournament's legendary first prize, a bag of rice. In honour of Shig, the Hirai family, and Fujiya's dedication to our community, we have renamed the Powell Street Festival's annual sumo tournament the Shig Hirai Sumo Tournament.

We are incredibly grateful to Shig, who passed in late 2025, and to the Hirai family for their generosity and for their enduring belief in the importance of community-led cultural spaces. Their landmark gift this year has made it possible to open the Powell Street Festival Society Endowment Fund, which will strengthen Japanese Canadian cultural belonging for many generations to come.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS



Gold
(金)

The Hirai Family

Sakura
(桜)

Shinobu Homma
Yan Fraternal Society

Momiji
(紅葉)

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WAYS TO GIVE

MAIL A CHEQUE:

410-111 West Hastings Street
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the information below.

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To learn more about our Donor and Sponsor
programs and the benefits of contributing to
Powell Street Festival Society, please get in
touch!

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Today!





powell street festival society

パウエル祭協会

50 years of celebrating Japanese Canadian Arts and Culture

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