



April 11, 2025

**Seattle Cherry Blossom &
Japanese Cultural Festival
Committee**

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Dear Friends,

Welcome! Thank you for being a part of the 50th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival (SCBJCF). Whether you are a first time visitor to the festival, supporter or seasoned volunteer, this three-day celebration is an opportunity to explore and celebrate Japanese art and culture with thousands of people who share the same interests and enthusiasm.

This year marks a half-century of promoting Japanese culture in the Pacific Northwest through the production of the festival. The first Cherry Blossom Festival, held on May 8, 1976, in Seward Park was to celebrate and dedicate a gift of 1,000 cherry trees to the City of Seattle by Japan's then Prime Minister, Takeo Miki. In 1978, the festival was moved to the Seattle Center and has grown to be the largest cultural event produced by the Seattle Center as part of the Festal Cultural Festival Series.

This year, in addition to the many performances, demonstrations and exhibit booths at the festival, there will be an Art Exhibit on view in the Armory Lofts, and on Saturday, April 12th the 2025 Rain City Open sumo tournament will be held in the Exhibition Hall. There will be lots of things to see and do. Stop by all three days to catch the special performances.

On behalf of the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Planning Committee, a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed toward making the festival possible for fifty years.

Please enjoy this years' festival!

Sincerely,

Karen Yoshitomi
Chair, SCBJCF Planning Committee,