



City of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell

Greetings,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 49th annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival.

This three-day celebration marks the beginning of spring, a time of hope and renewal, while also celebrating the significance of these magnificent blooms. Cherry blossom trees are a symbol of Seattle's deep connections to Japan and also represent the strength and resilience of our Japanese community.

Our shared vision for *One Seattle* is a city where residents rise and thrive together. It is a vision for a city where we lead with equity and inclusivity, work to inspire the best in each other, and build opportunity for all residents to reach their full potential. We reject bias and distrust and instead come together to embrace the diversity that makes us stronger and celebrate the many commonalities that bring us together.



Founded in appreciation of 1,000 cherry trees gifted by Prime Minister Takeo Miki to citizens of Seattle celebrating US Bicentennial, the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival is an excellent opportunity to honor the rich history and vibrant cultural traditions of our Japanese and Japanese American communities through programming like tea ceremonies, martial arts demonstrations, and taiko drumming.

On behalf of the City of Seattle, we are proud to host the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival at Seattle Center and hope the event is an amazing success.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bruce A. Harrell
City of Seattle