



# U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

*2022 Annual Report*



THE  
GREAT  
RECONNECT:  
*Strengthening  
Alliances,  
Partnerships  
and Communities*



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*Dear Friends,*



It has been my privilege to have served as USJC's Chair of the Board of Directors these past two years — a time of global disruption during which our stakeholders rose to meet significant challenges that tested our ability to fulfill the Council's mission. Our 2022 Annual Report shows how we embraced change to emerge from the darkest days of the pandemic with vibrancy and renewed optimism for the future.

By the end of 2022, many of the Council's programs and activities had resumed and new ones were started and gained traction. One major indication of our comeback: USJC welcomed more than 700 leaders in Tokyo last October at our first in-person Annual Conference since 2019 – it was our largest turnout to date. Also in Tokyo, we hosted a Next Generation Summit and provided selected alumni of our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) with high-level networking opportunities through our inaugural "ELP50" program.

I am confident that our new Co-Chairs, Kathy Matsui and Susan Morita, will keep our momentum going. Along with a proven CEO in Suzanne Basalla, a very capable Board of Directors, and the ongoing hard work and support of the Council's staff, members and sponsors, the Council is positioned to continue realizing its mission and remain relevant for many years to come.

While I will find new ways to contribute to the Council's mission, I hope that many of you will step up to lead the Council, our community and our two nations in the right direction.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Paul Yonamine  
Chair, USJC Board of Directors



As society adjusted to a gradual return to the office and more travel in 2022, USJC continued to explore new avenues to support our work across the United States and Japan. We focused our resources and programming on providing service for social good in the bilateral relationship, strengthening our networks and communities, and reinforcing our next-generation development programs.

One example of what we launched in 2022 that I'm especially proud of is our Climate and Sustainability Initiative, made possible by Amazon, our Founding Strategic Partner. Through this Initiative, we hosted virtual dialogues and convened an in-person business and government roundtable in Tokyo to discuss sustainability leadership practices, sector-specific outlooks, and the impact of geopolitics on Japan's renewable energy prospects.

Elsewhere, our community of leaders has shared their expertise, ideas and lessons learned on other pressing issues important to our two countries, including national security and economic policy; digital transformation and technological innovation; and social inequality, diversity and inclusion.

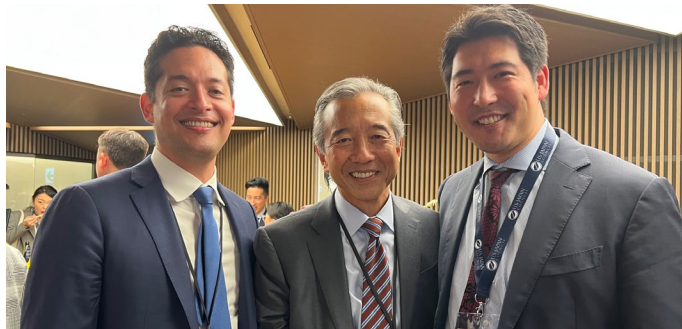
We are deeply grateful to Paul for his outstanding service as Board Chair – he tirelessly championed our cause and has positioned us well for the future. With new Co-Chairs Kathy Matsui and Susan Morita, we intend to continue to engage, inspire and connect our multi-generational network of leaders for an even stronger U.S.-Japan relationship.

Thank you for your engagement and support of USJC.

Suzanne Basalla  
President & CEO, U.S.-Japan Council



# ABOUT THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR PURPOSE

- We are a unique community that brings together Japanese American and other leaders of the United States and Japan, strengthening ties between the two countries.
- We bring together a network of diverse leaders across sectors for meaningful collaboration, creating deep and lasting relationships.
- We develop the next generation of leaders by offering life-changing experiences that inspire participants to contribute to a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship.
- We believe in service and are committed to action in areas where our multicultural perspectives and experiences can make a difference.

The U.S.-Japan relationship continues to demonstrate its relevance and fundamental role in the Asia-Pacific region. The partnership between the U.S. and Japan is a driving force behind economic growth, while the security alliance maintains peace and stability in the region. Built on shared values such as innovation and resilience, the contemporary U.S.-Japan relationship continues to evolve and develop new frontiers for collaboration.



# HIGHLIGHTS & FEATURED SPEAKERS



**32,700+**  
NEW YOUTUBE VIEWS

VIEWERS SPENT  
**2,400 HOURS**  
WATCHING USJC'S VIRTUAL  
PROGRAMS IN 2022

## EVENTS

IN-PERSON: **70+**

VIRTUAL: **80+**



**RAHM EMANUEL**,  
U.S. Ambassador to Japan



**CARISSA MOORE**, Olympic Gold  
Medalist in Short Board Surfing



**DAVID Y. IGE**, Governor of Hawaii



**SUSAN POINTER**, Vice President of  
International Public Policy & Government  
Affairs, Amazon



**HIRONORI KAMEZAWA**, President  
& Group CEO of Mitsubishi UFJ  
Financial Group, Inc.



**GILL PRATT**, Chief Scientist, Toyota  
Motor Corporation and CEO, Toyota  
Research Institute



**YURIKO KOIKE**, Governor of Tokyo



**JUN SAWADA**, Chairman, NTT  
Corporation



**KATRINA LAKE**, Founder, Stitch Fix



**SPUTNIKO! (HIROMI OZAKI)**,  
Associate Professor, Tokyo University of  
the Arts; CEO, Cradle



**HIDEKI MATSUI**, World Series MVP  
Baseball Player, New York Yankees



**SYLVESTER TURNER**, Mayor of  
Houston, Texas

# 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

>700  
ATTENDEES

>50%  
ATTENDEES FROM THE U.S.

>25%  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

57  
SPEAKERS

THE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held at the Cerulean Tower Tokyu Hotel from October 27 to 28 with the theme “The Great Reconnect: Strengthening Alliances, Partnerships and Communities.” As the first in-person conference since 2019, this year’s event upheld the theme of bringing together leaders and communities within the U.S.-Japan relationship. It strengthened bilateral bonds through programming that explored how the United States and Japan could work together and learn from one another to enact meaningful change and produce solutions.

Prominent themes included climate and sustainability, business and government ties, diversity and empowerment, mental health and wellness, technology and next generation leadership.

- ▶ [2022 Annual Conference Summary](#)
- ▶ [Videos](#)
- ▶ [Conference Program](#)
- ▶ [Photos](#)

## FEATURED PANELS

### MESSAGES FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

TOKYO GOVERNOR KOIKE Yuriko shared her city’s plan to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, and stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation. Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio delivered a message on the critical value of the U.S.-Japan relationship, which was read by his Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs, Mr. SHIKATA Noriyuki. United States Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel made welcome remarks in person.



### LEVERAGING SUBNATIONAL ACTION TO SOLVE GLOBAL PROBLEMS

GOVERNOR DAVID Y. IGE OF HAWAII and Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston, Texas took the stage for the Public Symposium’s morning plenary. Their discussion, moderated by Sheila Smith, focused on their respective efforts to lead Texas and Hawaii into a greener, more sustainable future. They also spoke candidly on their regional ties to Japan and why U.S.-Japan partnerships matter on a local level.

# 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## FEATURED PANELS



Olympic ice dancers and USJC members Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani served as emcees during the Annual Conference.



### MINK! DOCUMENTARY—EMPOWERING GENERATIONS OF WOMEN ATHLETES

JAN YANEHIRO HOSTED a panel discussion with MINK! director Ben Proudfoot and Olympic surfer Carissa Moore in an event that honed in on the challenges and achievements of female athletes. Audiences then saw a special screening of the documentary MINK!, which explored the story of Patsy Takemoto Mink, as well as a special pre-recorded interview with tennis champion Ms. Naomi Osaka, who spoke with USJC Board Member Curtiss Takada Rooks about her career and aspirations as a social activist.



### LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL WELLNESS

DR. STEPHEN MURPHY-SHIGEMATSU LED a discussion on issues of mental health in Japan with leaders representing diverse sectors, including Member of the Japanese Diet, Hon. MAKIHARA Hideki, Daiko Matsuyama (Taizo-in Zen Buddhist Temple), and others. Panelists addressed “leadership for mental wellness” and “mental wellness for leadership” by drawing upon insights from deep traditions in Japan, today’s social dynamics and knowledge from the experts of human behavior in Japan and the United States.



# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## CLIMATE & ESG



The USJC Climate & Sustainability Initiative is supported by the initiative's Founding Strategic Partner, Amazon.

OUR CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE is designed to put the spotlight on the climate crisis. Through virtual and in-person events and activities, we challenge bilateral leaders and change-makers to share strategies and take action.



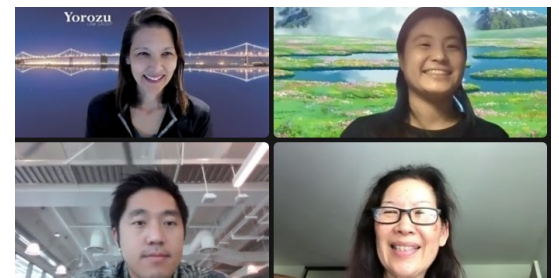
### EXPLORING CARBON-FREE POWER: WEBINAR AND RECEPTIONS

ON FEBRUARY 28, USJC PARTNERED with the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHT) and the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Foundation to bring together a panel of top Japanese and American experts to explore the necessary scientific, technological, business and policy advancements for Japan and the United States to achieve a carbon-free power sector. The webinar, titled "Japan's and the United States' Quests to Achieve a Carbon-Free Power Sector: Necessary Breakthroughs in Policy, Science and Technology and Business Models," was followed by in-person receptions in New York, Honolulu and Washington, DC.



### U.S.-JAPAN CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP: INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY

ON AUGUST 29, USJC brought together multi-sector leaders to offer inspiration and practical insights into how to bridge the gap in the United States and Japan between demand and supply of low-cost renewable energy through effective engagement of key stakeholders. A special guest, Fukushima Governor UCHIBORI Masao, shared insights on decarbonization efforts in his prefecture.



### JAPAN REGIONAL EVENTS FOCUSED ON ESG

IN PREPARATION FOR THE Annual Conference, Japan regional leaders organized two virtual events on the topic of ESG. On September 29, members heard insights from Jamie Allen (Asian Corporate Governance Association) and Kei Okamura (Neuberger Berman) on the topic of "Evolution of G Strengthens E and S." On October 13, Kyle Lawless (EY Japan Climate Change and Sustainability Services, EY Global Public Policy) presented on ESG measurement and reporting.

# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## CLIMATE & ESG



### CSI SUSTAINABILITY ROUNDTABLE

ON OCTOBER 27, USJC convened its first in-person Sustainability Roundtable, gathering over 50 Japanese and American sustainability leaders from the corporate, finance, non-profit, academia and government sectors. USJC presented five themes: energy security's position as a top bilateral priority; the need to prevent "Japan passing" in the climate and sustainability business areas; the importance of collaboration on a "just" energy transition; the need to prioritize key technology and business opportunities to clear the way for significant capital investment; and the need for integrated solutions with cross-sector, cross-border and cross-cultural collaboration.



### JAPAN-HOUSTON-TEXAS CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE: SHARING BEST PRACTICES

A TWO-PART SERIES HELD on November 3 and December 7 convened American and Japanese business, NPO and city government leaders in Houston to assess opportunities for building a more sustainable future together. These events were part of the USJC Climate and Sustainability Initiative and were presented in collaboration with the City of Houston, Asia Society Texas, Greater Houston Partnership, Ally Energy and Cole Chemical.



### THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

SUSTAINABILITY WAS A THEME throughout the Annual Conference. In a panel discussion, Gill Pratt (Toyota Research Institute) shared his expertise on why the reduction of carbon emissions is essential, while Jill Blickstein (American Airlines) shared insights on plans to utilize clean energy in the airline industry. [Watch the panel here.](#)



# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION

### REGIONAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: STORIES OF WOMEN IN THE SOUTH AND BEYOND

THE REGIONAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (RWL) program celebrated its seventh year at the U.S.-Japan Council. On January 20, a panel discussion brought four female leaders representing multiple sectors to the spotlight. They discussed their career journeys and the challenges they faced along the way as women. Funding for RWL is generously provided by the Government of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

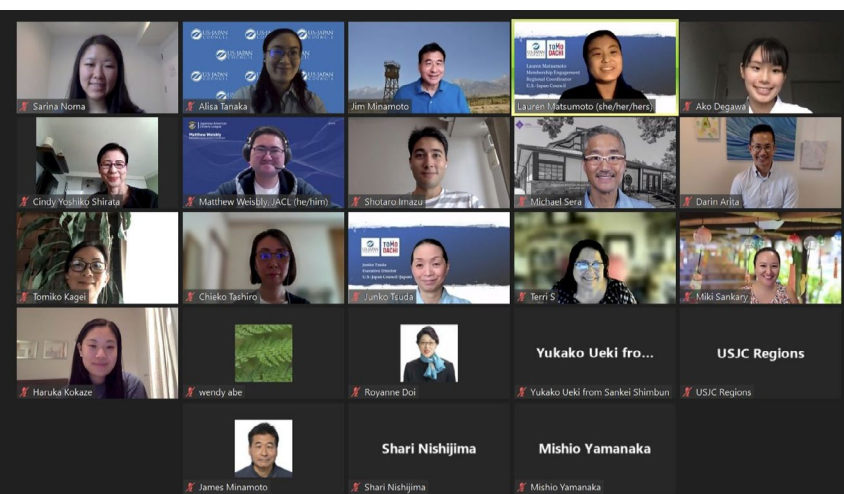
### USJC WOMEN+ FORUM: SUPPORTING STRATEGIC SUCCESS

THE FORUM FOCUSES ON advancing women and offers opportunities to expand their networks across regions, countries and demographics to build relationships. In order to demonstrate one of the Forum's key goals, the Women+ Forum held their inaugural event on June 22, where panelists discussed their respective professional journeys and how being a non-dominant minority impacted their professional experiences.



### THE POWER OF WORDS: EUPHEMISMS AND THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

ON AUGUST 11, USJC'S Japanese American Storytelling Program (JASP) and Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) hosted Matthew Weisbly (JACL National, Los Angeles). Mr. Weisbly led a discussion detailing the language euphemisms used to describe the Japanese American experience during World War II and the preferred terminology that more accurately describes the reality of that experience.





# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION



### MENTAL WELLNESS TRENDS IN JAPANESE AND JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

ON OCTOBER 6, USJC'S New York Region hosted an in-person discussion about mental wellness at the Nippon Club. Moderated by Council Leader Dr. Jeanette Takamura, the speakers discussed mental health trends in both Japanese and Japanese American communities.



### 2022 U40 SUMMIT

FORTY UNDER 40 (U40) participants traveled to Denver, Colorado to participate in the Under 40 Summit. Held May 20-21, the event explored the theme "A New Frontier" and showcased local art and organizations and included workshops on community and identity. A special fireside chat included panelists Ambassador Harry B. Harris, Jr., Consul General of Japan in Denver MIKAMI Yoichi, and USJC President & CEO Suzanne Basalla. Other panels showcased local Denver-based companies, explored cultural and ethnic identity and offered insights on Japanese American history.



# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## BUSINESS & POLITICS



### IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED — ADMINISTRATION INSIGHTS WITH WHITE HOUSE'S CHRIS JOHNSTONE

ON FEBRUARY 9, USJC corporate donors attended an intimate, off-the-record conversation with then-National Security Council Director for East Asia at the White House Chris Johnstone. During the “off-the-record” discussion, Mr. Johnstone highlighted the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance.



### USJC DC REGION GATHERS AT THE EMBASSY

ON APRIL 19, A GROUP of 23 Washington, DC-area members gathered at the Japanese Embassy for a luncheon with Minister and Head of Chancery AI Koichi, Counsellor TEZUKA Isao, and First Secretaries SUZAWA Fumiho and NAKAYAMA Yusuke. Minister Ai briefed members on the history of the Embassy and its various roles, including relationship building with the Japanese American community.



### CONVENING BUSINESS LEADERS IN JAPAN

THE BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD (BAB) convened for quarterly virtual meetings in 2022, providing a forum for industry leaders to converse and share perspectives, and allow next generation leaders including TOMODACHI alumni to learn and network with business executives. The U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) welcomed Nobu Okada (Astroscale Holdings Inc.) and Masayuki Sarumaru (YKK Corporation) as keynote speakers, among others.



### VENTURES ADVANCING INTO THE GLOBAL ARENA

ON MARCH 19, THE U.S.-Japan Council (Japan), fabbit and the Tokyo New Business Council co-hosted an online workshop. Four Japanese entrepreneurs shared their experiences starting their respective business ventures overseas with the audience.

### AN INSIDER'S TAKE ON THE PELOSI DELEGATION'S TRIP TO TAIWAN AND JAPAN

ON AUGUST 25, USJC sponsors and board members gathered for an off-the-record conversation with U.S. Representative Mark Takano. USJC Board of Councilors Member Glen S. Fukushima (Center for American Progress) moderated a discussion on the pressing issues for U.S.-Japan collaboration and the role that Japanese Americans can play in the trilateral relationship between South Korea, Japan and the United States.

# THEMES AND PROGRAMMING

## BUSINESS & POLITICS



### SILICON VALLEY JAPAN PLATFORM (SVJP)

SVJP IS AN INITIATIVE OF USJC and the International House of Japan, which merged with the Asia Pacific Initiative (API) in July of 2022. SVJP aims to connect the technological dynamism of Silicon Valley with the current and future needs of digital transformation in Japan through trusting, collaborative relationships. SVJP is co-chaired by Board of Councilors Member Dr. Daniel Okimoto (Stanford University) and Council Leader James Kondo (International House of Japan), with Jon Shalowitz serving as President.



SVJP's 2022 activities included both online programming and in-person events. In May, a special breakfast meeting was held at the International House of Japan with Bipul Sinha (Rubrik). That same month, members of SVJP's Entrepreneur Program visited the United States, providing an opportunity for the Japan startup founders to meet with key entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley. SVJP's Executive Roundtables brought together member CEOs with an influential U.S. technology leader for an intimate discussion via a hybrid of in-person and online formats. In July, Steve Luczo (Crosspoint Partners) discussed the disruption in the global supply chain and shared his experiences of building a stronger company through a crisis. Towards the end of the year, Ivan Zhao (Notion) shared how his strong connection to Japan influenced his design philosophy.



SVJP's flagship event, the Annual Retreat in Half Moon Bay, took place in October, reuniting its corporate member community for a three-day gathering. Topics ranged from Web3 & NFTs to the future of work after the pandemic, the impact of quantum technology, and how digital technology is being used by Silicon Valley in innovative ways. The retreat featured a broad range of speakers, including Naveed Sherwani (RapidSilicon), Hon. KONO Taro (Minister of Digital Affairs of Japan), Chris Bedi (ServiceNow) and more.



# NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

## EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM



THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM (ELP) identifies, cultivates and empowers a new generation of Japanese American leaders. Emerging Leaders participate in leadership education, design and implement original USJC programming, and develop powerful, lifelong personal and professional friendships. A new cohort of leaders aged 24-35 is selected annually to become USJC Associates and join program alumni in strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship for future generations of leaders. Each class has become engaged with and made meaningful contributions to USJC and the ELP community.

The 2022 program brought together 14 young Japanese American professionals for a series of virtual and in-person engagements. The cohort participated in a leadership orientation program and networked with senior Japanese American leaders. Throughout the year, alumni organized events to allow members of the ELP community to connect with each other, including the Kaiwa Series program to learn leadership skills from role models. The ELP alumni organized the U40 Summit in 2022, where nearly 70 USJC Associate members aged 40 or younger gathered in Denver for a weekend of leadership training and networking. [Meet the 2022 cohort and learn more.](#)

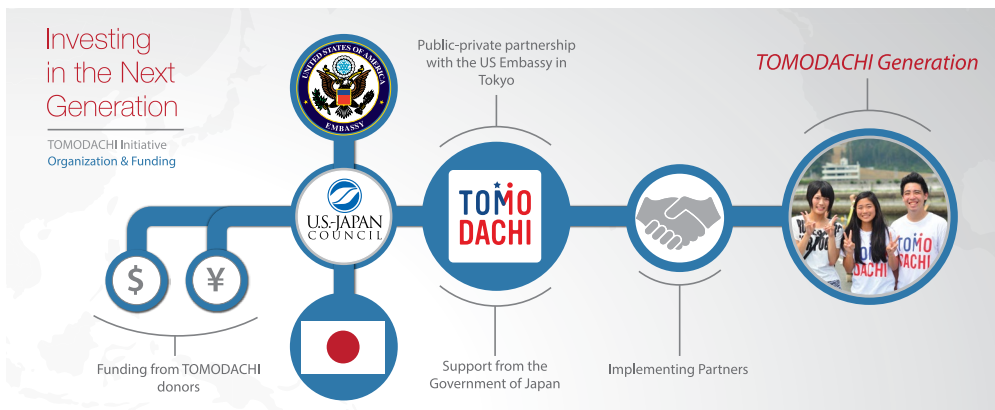


### ELP50

TAKING PLACE FROM OCTOBER 25-26, the ELP 50 gathered 50 ELP alumni to experience Japan and connect with Japanese business, government and NPO leaders. Spearheaded by outgoing USJC Board Chair Paul Yonamine and alumnus Steve Sakanashi, the strategic program strengthened the political, cultural, economic, and personal ties between young Japanese American and Japanese leaders.

# NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

## THE TOMODACHI INITIATIVE



**NEARLY 9,978**  
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

**359**  
TOTAL PROGRAMS  
SINCE INCEPTION

THE TOMODACHI INITIATIVE is a public-private partnership between the U.S.-Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, with support from the Government of Japan. Born out of support for Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, TOMODACHI invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs.

*"The TOMODACHI Initiative has opened me up to the opportunities in the world, and I want to pass that on to the next generation."*

—RIMPEI TAKAHASHI, TOMODACHI ST. LOUIS-ISHINOMAKI GRASSROOTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM '15



### BUILDING THE TOMODACHI GENERATION: MORGAN STANLEY AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

SIX AMERICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS and eight of their Japanese counterparts spent two weeks in Washington, DC studying civil society and cross-sector partnerships. The students then worked together to address social challenges in both Japan and the United States utilizing that knowledge.

### ALUMNI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

THE TOMODACHI ALUMNI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM seeks to empower future leaders of the United States and Japan to continue to develop leadership skills, cultivate regional communities, network and remain involved in U.S.-Japan relations on a grassroots level. This integral part of TOMODACHI had been made possible with the generous support of Prudential since 2013.

### TOMODACHI SUMITOMO CORPORATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ON JULY 1, THE TOMODACHI Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship Program held a special ceremony for returning and outgoing Japanese students. This program provides assistance to high-achieving university students with financial need to enable them to study abroad for one year.



# NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP



## TOMODACHI TOSHIZO WATANABE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

FROM AUGUST 10 TO 20, 14 Japanese high school students from all over Japan visited California as part of the inaugural TOMODACHI Toshizo Watanabe Leadership Program. Made possible by a generous endowment of \$10 million from The Toshizo Watanabe Foundation, the program seeks to offer participants educational insights into Japanese American history, engagement with local communities and leadership training. The program included visits to institutions such as the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), the Terasaki Institute, California Institute of Technology, Japanese American National Museum (JANM), and the Holocaust Museum LA, among many other places.

*"Today marks the end of the program, but we would like to take what we gained and put it into future use. After we return to our respective homes, we pledge to demonstrate and pass on what we learned."*

—SAKURA KINJO, TOMODACHI TOSHIZO WATANABE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

*"Being a Watanabe Scholar has meant everything to me on this exchange. I met many other friends through the TOMODACHI Initiative and the USJC Annual Conference, which has changed the course of my future... I feel more confident and optimistic about my future. This could not have been done without the kindness and efforts of the Watanabe Scholarship Team."*

—ASHLEY CUNNINGHAM,  
U.S. WATANABE SCHOLAR 2022-23



## TOSHIZO WATANABE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

THE TOSHIZO WATANABE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students to study for a semester or year in the United States or Japan. A generous endowment gift of \$10 million from Mr. Toshizo ("Tom") Watanabe to the U.S.-Japan Council makes it possible to award scholarships to students for those with leadership potential and for whom study abroad would not be possible without financial support.

For the 2022-23 year, scholarships were awarded to 23 Japanese students and 17 American students, which included 34 undergraduate and six graduate students. As part of the scholarship program, 12 American scholars also gathered in Tokyo to attend the Next Generation Summit at the 2022 Annual Conference.



# NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

## NEXT GENERATION SUMMIT



FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF virtual events, the 2022 Next Generation Summit took place for the first time in an in-person and virtual hybrid-style setting. Held under the theme of “the Next Age of Leadership,” over 100 participants attended, including TOMODACHI alumni, Watanabe Scholars, donors, supporters and guests. U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel offered special remarks encouraging alumni to keep working together for a strong U.S.-Japan relationship and never give up on being better leaders for a better tomorrow. A special session on the power of storytelling, represented by the Japanese American Storytelling Program, was held at the Google office in Shibuya.



*“Since its Fall 2020 launch, JASP has delivered 120 personal storytelling presentations to more than 3,000 university students in Japan - the next generation of leaders. Audience feedback demonstrates that JASP’s Nikkei stories change lives. Many sincere thanks to the USJC for allowing me to travel on this highly rewarding and personally transformative journey which has enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of my own Nikkei identity.”*

—COUNCIL LEADER JIM MINAMOTO

### JAPANESE AMERICAN STORYTELLING PROGRAM (JASP)

DURING ITS SECOND FULL year of operation, the U.S.-Japan Council’s Japanese American Storytelling Program (JASP), led by Council Leaders Steve Sugino and Jim Minamoto and Storytelling Coach Patrick Newell, completed 60 presentations. Thirty JASP speakers from diverse USJC Regions, including Japan, Hawaii, California, Texas and New York, delivered personal stories with positive messages to an audience of over 1,800 university students in Japan including Okinawa, Akita, Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Tohoku, Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto and Tokyo.



# MEMBERSHIP

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL COMPRISES members and supporters in the United States and Japan who are committed to the mission of the organization. Included in these ranks are top leaders from major corporations, academia and research, politics and law, as well as entrepreneurs and thought leaders.

USA  
632

JAPAN  
110



## COUNCIL LEADERS

Members 40+ years old

520

## ASSOCIATES

Members under 40

220

## FRIENDS OF THE COUNCIL

7

## TOTAL

747

There are 5 other members based outside of the U.S. and Japan.

*"I've always thought,  
'If people in Japan  
knew what Japanese  
have accomplished in  
America, they would  
be so happy and  
proud.' USJC gives  
us a chance to share  
our stories."*

—LORI MATSUKAWA  
(RETIRED JOURNALIST  
AT KING TV, JALD '05)

## MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

BUSINESS

422

EDUCATION

87

GOVERNMENT

66

NONPROFIT

99

MEDICAL  
HEALTHCARE

15

MILITARY

5

LAW

53

## MEMBERSHIP



USJC MEMBERSHIP IS DIVIDED INTO 12 regions, spanning the United States and Japan. Regions engage local communities through networking activities and educational events. Presented at our Annual Conference, here is an overview of what regions accomplished in 2022 and what they hope to achieve in 2023.

*"What fascinates me the most about USJC is the collective diversity of the Japanese American experience—across regions, generations, industries and personal histories—brought together by mutual curiosity and a passion to connect. It's a privilege to be a part of such a vast and colorful community."*

—MARI IWAHARA (JIGSAW AT GOOGLE, ELP '21)



### AFFINITY GROUPS

AFFINITY GROUPS are member-led initiatives, connecting leaders through discussion-based networking opportunities built around shared interests, professional fields, identities and more.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### STRENGTHENING MENTAL WELLNESS THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL U.S.-JAPAN INSIGHTS

MORE THAN 120 individuals attended the first Mental Wellness Affinity Group event, which was held virtually on May 26. Led by Gerald Hane, the panel commemorated Mental Health Awareness Month with an exploration of key issues related to mental health in both the United States and Japan.



## FEATURED MEMBER EVENTS



### SHIN-ISSEI LEADERS CELEBRATE IN NASHVILLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME since its inception, members of the Steering Committee of the USJC Shin-Issei Affinity Group got together in person in Nashville to celebrate the group's successful engagement of first-generation Japanese Americans who believe in USJC's mission. Highlights of the weekend included a Shin-Issei BBQ dinner where about 30 Shin-Issei leaders from seven different states mingled with the Consul General of Japan in Nashville and participated in *bon-odori* dancing at the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival.



## MEMBERS FORUM

ON OCTOBER 27, COUNCIL members convened in Tokyo to kick off the Annual Conference with the 2022 Members Forum. After several years of exclusively virtual programming, it was especially meaningful for Council Leaders, Associates and friends to reconnect in person as well as welcome our newest members to the community.

Members heard updates and announcements on the year's programming and activities, as well as a look ahead into 2023. Programs that took the spotlight included the Emerging Leaders Program, the U40 Summit, the ELP50 program and the Japanese American Storytelling Program. Members also celebrated the Council's wide-reaching Regions and Affinity Groups, and spent the evening networking.



## FEATURED MEMBER EVENTS



### SUMMER FUN IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ON JULY 16, THE Northern California region gathered to soak up some summer sun at Spark Social in San Francisco. USJC members and their families were welcomed by Regional Co-Chair Jackie Funasaki, played icebreaker bingo games, and made s'mores at a fire pit. With attendees joining from Sacramento, San Jose and Santa Cruz, the NorCal regional members enjoyed being able to see everyone in person after a long time.



### JAPANESE MONSTERS WITH THE MIDWEST REGION

THE MIDWEST region's "Bento Talks" series returned on May 24 after a long hiatus. Author and academic William Tsutsui, Midwest USJC's resident Godzilla expert, taught attendees about Japan's famous yokai — demons, monsters and even mascots — during a special abbreviated version of his "Japanese Monsters" course at the Japan Information Center (JIC).



### MEDITATION IN HAWAII

ON AUGUST 31, A small group of USJC Hawaii regional members got together at Chozenji Temple to reset, recalibrate, refocus and prepare for the second half of the year. Over the three-hour program, participants were introduced to basic practices and mindsets that help develop the courage and sound strategy needed to navigate uncertainty, today and in the future. Activities included zazen (seated meditation), Japanese martial and fine arts, and discussion.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(AS OF DECEMBER 2022)



THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS consists of leaders from across the United States and in Japan who provide their expertise in establishing and guiding the Council's mission and activities.

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(AS OF DECEMBER 2022)

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S DISTINGUISHED BOARD OF COUNCILORS consists of leaders who are recognized for their life-long contribution and commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations. Their expertise and guidance directs the Council's mission and activities.

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(AS OF DECEMBER 2022)

USJC'S LEGACY COUNCIL INCLUDES members of the Board of Directors and select members of the Board of Councilors who completed full terms of service on the Board. It was established to recognize the invaluable contributions of Board members, past, present and in the future, and to encourage previous Board members to remain active leaders at USJC.

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**Jan Yanehiro**, *President, Jan Yanehiro, Inc.*



THE USJC COMMUNITY WAS SADDENED to lose the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, who served as Vice Chair until his passing on May 3, 2022. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Mineta served on the USJC Board of Councilors since 2010. He was a longtime member and supporter of the Council.



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THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL (U.S.) AND U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL (JAPAN) are supported by the generous contributions of our corporate, individual and foundation donors who share the goal of strengthening U.S.-Japan relations through people-to-people connections. We gratefully acknowledge the following who generously supported the Council's many educational and networking programs.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE to Mr. Toshizo (“Tom”) Watanabe (above) and his wife for their generous contributions that enable The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program and the TOMODACHI Toshizo Watanabe Leadership Program, and Mr. Michael Lerch (below) for his incredible gift toward the TOMODACHI Initiative and foundational support for U.S.-Japan Council operations.



THE COUNCIL OFFERS SINCERE THANKS to outgoing Board members Royanne Doi, Yuko Kaifu, Kathy Matsui, David Nishida, Norman Nakasone, Scott Sato, Paul Yonamine and Tasha Yorozu. We look forward to the continued leadership of Ms. Matsui, Mr. Sato and Mr. Yonamine as they take on new Board responsibilities.

# MANAGEMENT & STAFF



THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL’S STAFF is based across the United States and in Tokyo, Japan. USJC staff members are responsible for administering programs, implementing the decisions of the Board of Directors and promoting the Council’s mission and organizational goals.



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