



2023 Annual Report



Building a Sustainable, Secure and
Inclusive Future Together

Table of Contents

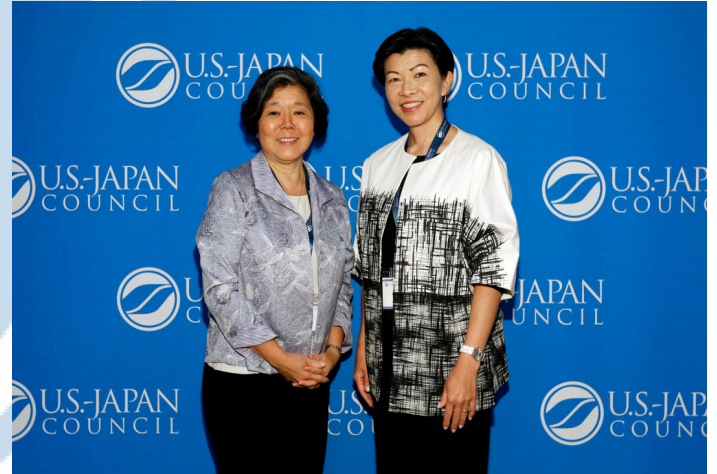


Letters from Leadership	3-4
About USJC	5
Highlights and Featured Speakers	6
Annual Conference	7-8
Themes and Programming: Climate & Sustainability	9-10
Themes and Programming: Education & Leadership	11-12
Themes and Programming: Business & Politics	13-15
Next Generation Leadership	16-20
Membership	21-22
Board Leadership	23-25
Sponsors & Supporters	26-30
Stay Connected	31

Words from Leadership

To the USJC community,

It has truly been an honor for us to take up the torch this year as Board Co-Chairs of this wonderful organization that holds such personal meaning to us both. The U.S.-Japan Council is a remarkable community of individuals and organizations committed to strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship through impactful people-to-people connections and collaboration. We are proud of the connections we have been able to forge and the gatherings we have been able to facilitate this year to deepen understanding, develop leadership and move the ball forward on substantive issues of importance in the U.S.-Japan alliance. Our 2023 Annual Report highlights USJC's vibrancy and momentum.



We are energized by the strategic planning process we engaged in this year with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. We are especially grateful for the input we received during breakout sessions at the 2023 Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The strategic plan provides an excellent framework to build on USJC's past and forge new paths with clearly defined priorities.

A robust and resilient U.S.-Japan alliance grows ever more important in the face of tensions and instability in many areas of our world, as well as other challenges that call for global solutions. We believe USJC is uniquely positioned to address critical issues and inspire change, through the strength of our networks and our ability to convene and collaborate with important stakeholders in the alliance.

We are grateful to Suzanne Basalla for her leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of USJC. Suzanne was the perfect leader to steer our ship through the challenging waters of the global pandemic and the sad loss of our founder, Irene Hirano Inouye. We thank Suzanne and wish her all the best. We are excited to welcome Audrey Yamamoto, our new President and CEO. Alongside our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, members and friends, we look forward to taking new steps toward fulfilling our mission in 2024.

Sincerely,

Kathy Matsui & Susan Morita
Co-Chairs, USJC Board of Directors

Words from Leadership

Dear Friends,

I am gratified to see how the Council has excelled during 2023 in strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship through unparalleled people-to-people connections, positioning our members at the forefront of leadership in order to address the most pressing issues in the bilateral relationship.

We are a convener, a network and a community. Our Annual Conference brought participants to our nation's capital to tackle key issues around security, sustainability and diversity. Kampai Chicago gathering connected several cohorts for peer learning and fellowship.

In Tokyo, Business Advisory Board meetings and the TOMODACHI NextGen Summit brought together dynamic communities at different stages in their professional journeys.

USJC also leverages our network to tackle the complex bilateral issues that require collaboration across sectors, generations, cultures and borders. Our second year of Amazon-funded Climate & Sustainability Initiative programming allowed us to dive deeper into specific areas, resulting in policy outcomes. Meanwhile, the Silicon Valley Japan Platform advanced collaboration amid advances in generative AI.

USJC cultivates a leadership pipeline to sustain a dedicated community to contribute to the U.S.-Japan relationship and the greater good. From the TOMODACHI programs and Watanabe Scholarships to the Emerging Leaders Program, we are committed to the next generation. Our signature Japanese American Leadership Delegation program resumed in Spring 2023, and in the fall we launched a new mid-career program, the Advanced Leadership Collective.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the President & CEO of the Council. It is an honor to pass the baton to Audrey Yamamoto, who will surely lead the Council to great things in our organization's next chapter. As the Council continues to lean into its strengths, focusing on NextGen leadership, increased diversity, "borderless" engagement and Member-led collaboration, the future is very bright indeed.

Suzanne Basalla

President & CEO, U.S.-Japan Council



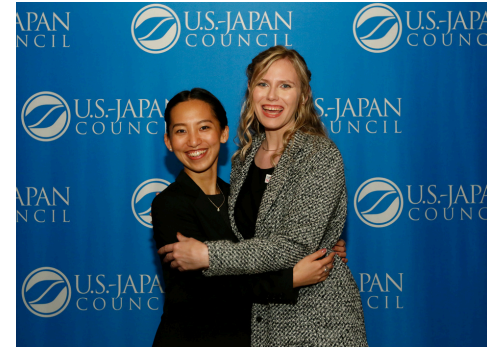
I am truly honored to have the privilege to build on the enduring legacy of Irene Hirano Inouye and exceptional leadership of Suzanne Basalla as USJC enters its next exciting chapter. My experience as a 2023 JALD delegate was transformative: not only did it introduce me to this incredible organization, it underscored to me the unique role Japanese Americans can play in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations. In addition to its community, what drew me to USJC is its tremendous potential to develop and connect globally-minded leaders for a stronger bilateral partnership. I congratulate our USJC community on all that was accomplished in 2023 and look forward to what we can do together in 2024 and beyond.



Audrey Yamamoto

Incoming President & CEO, U.S.-Japan Council

About the U.S.-Japan Council



Our Mission

The U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) 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 United States 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 and Featured Speakers

100+ Events

administered by USJC in 2023

10,000+ Network

Members, alumni and larger USJC community



Learn more: [Visit our YouTube Channel](#)



Carmine Di Sibio
Global Chairman and CEO
EY



Takayuki Morita
President and CEO
(Representative Director)
NEC Corporation



Sachi Hamai
Retired, Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County



John Podesta
Senior Advisor to the President for
Clean Energy Innovation and
Implementation
The White House



Bruce Harrell
Mayor of Seattle
State of Washington



Katherine Tai
United States Trade
Representative

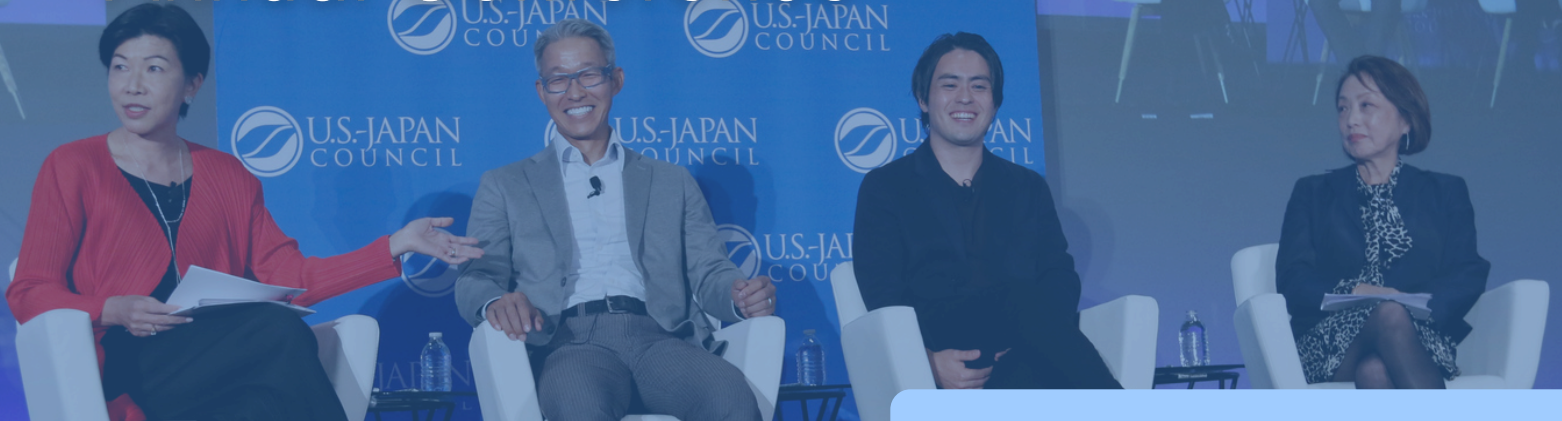


Sachiko Kuno
President and CEO
S&R Evermay



YUZAKI Hidehiko
Governor of Hiroshima
Prefecture

Annual Conference

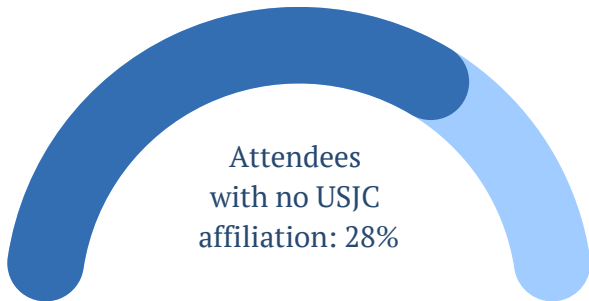
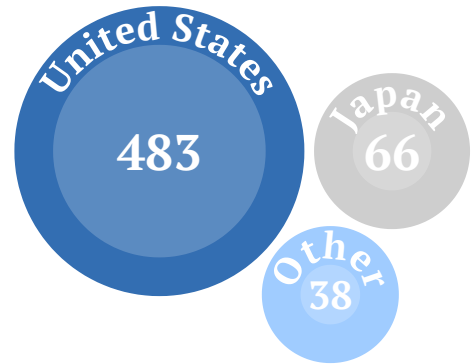


The U.S.-Japan Council, with the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan), held its 12th Annual Conference in Washington, DC from November 8 to 10. With the theme “Building a Sustainable, Secure and Inclusive Future Together,” the conference brought leaders from across industries, backgrounds and generations to encourage solution-focused discussions on key issues such as sustainability, diversity and strengthening bilateral ties.

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



Attendees Visited From:





“I have met so many amazing people [and] forged very meaningful friendships through the USJC Annual Conference. I know that I would never have met these people in my everyday life away from USJC, so it’s definitely worth coming to meet the people, to feel the sense of community, to feel that we all are working towards the same thing with bridging the gap between the U.S. and Japan and working on people-to-people relationships.”

-Susan Miyagi
McCormac (JALD ‘24)



[Click here](#) to watch highlights from the 2023 Annual Conference in Washington, DC

2023 Members Forum



On November 10, USJC members closed out the Annual Conference in Washington, DC with the 2023 Members Forum. Members heard from USJC leadership on future programming, shared their thoughts on USJC’s activities and celebrated highlights from the year.

This event also featured a panel on what it means to be Japanese American, allowing members to reflect on their unique experiences together.

- ▶ [Read More](#)
- ▶ [View Photos](#)



Themes & Programming

Climate and Sustainability



The U.S.-Japan Council is committed to protecting our planet. By bringing together climate experts, business leaders, government officials and the next generation, we instigate critical conversations and key dialogues that identify challenges and promote innovative solutions for a greener future.

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 changemakers to share strategies and take action.



The second annual Climate and Sustainability Roundtable brought together over 50 Japanese and American sustainability experts and leaders from the corporate, finance, non-profit, academia and government sectors to candidly discuss climate solutions at the Annual Conference. [Read more.](#)

On October 4, the U.S.-Japan Council hosted 150 sustainability leaders at fabbit in Tokyo for the “Energy Transformation Speaker Series,” alongside co-hosts Mitsubishi Corporation, Geodesic Capital and ABeam Consulting. [Read more.](#)



The USJC Climate & Sustainability Initiative is supported by the initiative’s Founding Strategic Partner, Amazon. [Learn more.](#)



Themes & Programming

Climate and Sustainability

Event Highlights

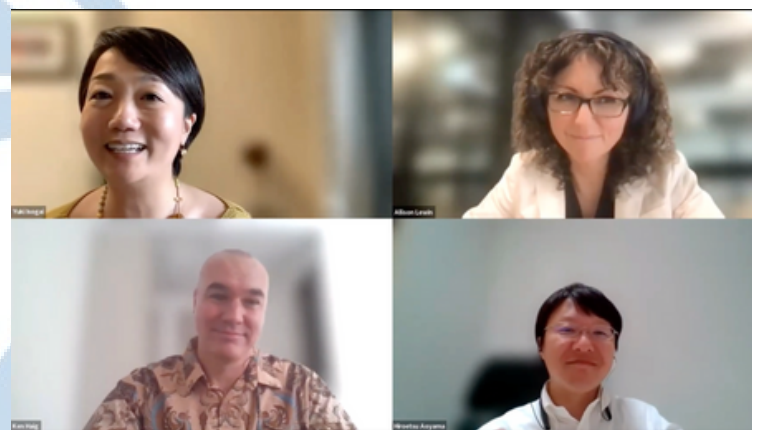


On June 21, USJC hosted “Unlocking Japan’s Renewable Energy Future,” which explored the various renewable energy initiatives in place across the government and the private sectors in Japan. [Read more.](#)



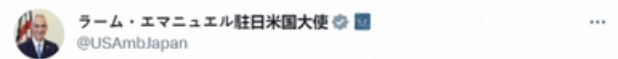
Tokyo Governor KOIKE Yuriko shared her city’s goals of Carbon Half 2030 and Zero Emission 2050.

On March 20, USJC’s Texas region hosted an in-person event focused on innovative steps towards greener business practices and a more sustainable future. [Read more.](#)



On September 6, USJC hosted “Nature-based Solutions for Addressing Climate Change: An Outlook for Japan and the Asia-Pacific.” [Watch the webinar.](#)

On March 14, USJC and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo co-hosted “Roundtable on Meeting the Twin Challenges of Climate Change and Energy Security through Methane Mitigation.” U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel was among participants. [Read more.](#)



Lower methane emissions = more natural gas. Thanks to @USJC for co-hosting an event with the Embassy to discuss how 🇺🇸 & 🇯🇵 can capture methane emissions – a win for the climate and for energy security.



2:43 AM · Mar 14, 2023 · 40.1K Views

Themes & Programming

Education & Leadership

Japanese American Leadership Delegation

Ten Japanese American leaders traveled to Japan from March 3 to 11 for the 2023 **Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD)** program. Organized by the U.S.-Japan Council and sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the JALD program aims to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship by facilitating people-to-people connections between prominent Japanese American and Japanese leaders. Among others, the delegation was able to meet with:



- Japan's Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio
- Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa
- Minister of Digital Affairs KONO Taro
- U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel
- KEIDANREN (the Japan Business Federation)
- Keizai Doyukai (the Japan Association of Corporate Executives)



[▶ Read More](#) [▶ View Photos](#)

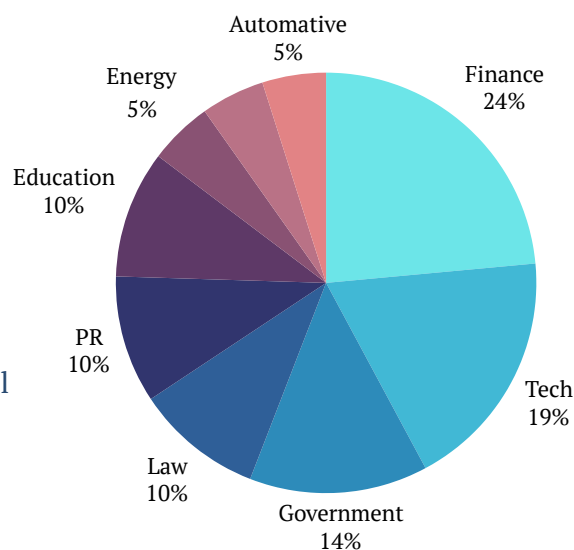
Advanced Leadership Collective



Designed for mid-career professionals, the **Advanced Leadership Collective** is a new cohort-based program that fosters authentic connections and empowers individuals to explore their professional and personal journeys, while also carefully considering the balance between the two.

The inaugural program was held at the 2023 Annual Conference.

[▶ Read More](#)



Themes & Programming

Education & Leadership

Event Highlights



On September 7, USJC's Mental Wellness Affinity Group held "Back to School, At Work, In Transition: Dialogue with Changing Tides," where they discussed contemporary mental health challenges within the diverse Japanese American and broader Asian American community. [Read more.](#)

On April 18, USJC's Hawaii Region showcased local female leaders, including Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Council Leader Noriko Namiki and Legacy Council Member Susan Eichor. [Read more.](#)



On September 27, USJC's Women+ Forum hosted a fireside chat with USJC Co-Chairs Kathy Matsui and Susan Morita, who shared their impressive career paths and how their familiarity with both Japanese and American culture respectively allowed them both to succeed in their roles. [Read more.](#)

Themes & Programming

Business & Politics

Business Advisory Board

The Business Advisory Board (BAB) is a platform that serves as a nexus for meaningful people-to-people connections, uniting a diverse and influential cohort of Japanese and American business leaders in Tokyo. Led by Vice Chair of Board of Councilors Masa Tanaka, this program also allows TOMODACHI alumni to learn and network with business executives. [Learn more.](#)

3


In-Person
Events in 2023

206

Attendees
in 2023

76%

Attendee Increase
(2022-2023)



“The BAB event provided a fantastic opportunity to broaden my horizons. I am excited to delve deeper into both my career and personal growth, leveraging the knowledge gained and relationships formed at this event.”

-Yuriko Kon (Building the TOMODACHI Generation: Morgan Stanley Ambassadors Program '22)



The 30th BAB Meeting featured a presentation from Council Leader Charles D. Lake II titled “Creating Shared Value (CSV) Management Strategy.”



The 29th BAB Meeting featured Board of Councilors Member Professor Naoyuki Agawa, who discussed the state of the U.S.-Japan alliance.



Themes & Programming Business & Politics



Silicon Valley Japan Platform



The Silicon Valley Japan Platform (SVJP) is a mission-driven initiative of USJC and the International House of Japan. 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.

At the conclusion of 2023, Co-Chairs Dan Okimoto and James Kondo transitioned to an advisory role as Co-Chair Emeriti. SVJP looks forward to entering a new chapter of leadership under Co-Chairs Saima Hasan and Naoaki Mashita. [Learn more.](#)

23
Events
in 2023

800+
Total number
of participants



On May 23, Takashi Ueda, President & Chief Executive Officer, Mitsui Fudosan, welcomed participants to the Kyoto Retreat, hosted at Hotel The Mitsui.



On September 23, Brad Lightcap, COO, OpenAI, presented on the power of AI in business at the Annual Retreat in Half Moon Bay.



SVJP Co-Chairs Saima Hasan and Naoaki Mashita

SVJP Members

Apaman U.S.A., Ltd.
East Japan Railway Company
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.
Japan Post Co., Ltd.
NEC Corporation
Rubrik
Sansei Technologies, Inc.
ServiceNow
Shinkin Central Bank
Toyota Research Institute
Woven by Toyota, Inc.
Zoom Video Communications, Inc.



Themes & Programming

Business & Politics

Event Highlights



USJC hosted a series of “Government Briefings” throughout the year for top tier sponsors to hear from key government officials. On April 27, “Government Briefing: A Conversation with SEC Commissioner Mark T. Uyeda” was held in Washington, DC. [Read more.](#)



USJC’s NorCal Regional Planning Group met with Consul General NOGUCHI and his team to discuss future activities and share personal insights into the unique role Japanese American communities fill in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations.



On January 17, USJC’s Regional Women in Leadership presented “Womonomics Across Cultures” in Augusta, Georgia, exploring cultural differences in business as female leaders. [Read more.](#)



On August 25, USJC’s Hawaii Region hosted an evening with Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, who stressed the importance of working “across the aisle” in times of political divide. [Read more.](#)



On October 12, the leadership of USJC’s Washington, DC Region welcomed Minister SATO Masaru, the new Head of Chancery at the Japanese Embassy in Washington, DC. [Read more.](#)



Next Generation Leadership Watanabe 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.

Learn more about the Watanabe Scholarship

“Being a Watanabe Scholar has been a great honor, and I’m glad I was selected to receive this scholarship. Not only did it provide financial support but it also allowed me to connect with other Watanabe Scholars who see the importance of cultural exchange, and I even had the pleasure of reconnecting with some scholars while being in Japan. But overall, studying abroad has been a life-changing experience for me that I will always remember.”

~Sabrina Alcin



Mr. Watanabe with Watanabe Scholars in 2022

Watanabe Scholar Leona Iizuka shares the impact the Toshizo Watanabe Scholarship has had on her academic career in the United States. Watch her full testimonial [here](#).



16% First Generation
13% From Single-Parent Households
17% Student’s First Time Abroad

In 2023
11 Japanese Students
8 American Students

Next Generation Leadership Japanese American Storytelling Program

The Japanese American Storytelling Program (JASP) is an educational program, where USJC members collaborate with university educators in Japan to teach Japanese students about Japanese American history through storytelling. JASP aims to nurture students towards an inclusive global mindset.

“I felt that it is important to eliminate the assumption that Japanese people look the same and speak the same language. I hope that the number of different types of Japanese people will increase in the future and that Japanese people themselves will be able to imagine a more diverse Japan.”

-Student feedback after JASP presentation

“This was the first time I heard about the Japanese incarceration camps. It was interesting to me because I had never thought about how Japanese Americans who were outside of Japan during the war were treated. I realized that knowing the historical backgrounds of people and countries is important for smooth and respectful communication in a society with diverse nationalities and genders.”

-Student feedback after JASP presentation

In 2023, USJC Associate Tyler Pugeda shared a JASP presentation in ASL (American Sign Language) to Deaf university students. The presentation included live interpretation into JSL (Japanese Sign Language).

Since 2020

180
Stories Shared

4,700
Students Reached

50+
Universities Worked With

40+

USJC Members Who Have Shared Their Family Stories

In 2023

64
Presentations

1,700
Students Reached

35
USJC Members



Learn more about JASP





Next Generation Leadership Emerging Leaders Program



The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) identifies, cultivates and empowers a new generation of Japanese American leaders. In 2023, the program brought eleven young leaders to Washington, DC for professional development, networking and educational programming at the Annual Conference. [Learn more.](#)

166
Program Alumni

14
ELP Cohorts

ELP Alumni Highlights

“ELP completely changed my entire life. I actually met my husband through my ELP classmate... so it’s changed my professional and my personal life. It’s been really fruitful to go through these different phases of my career but still have that grounding in the U.S. and Japan and their relationship.”

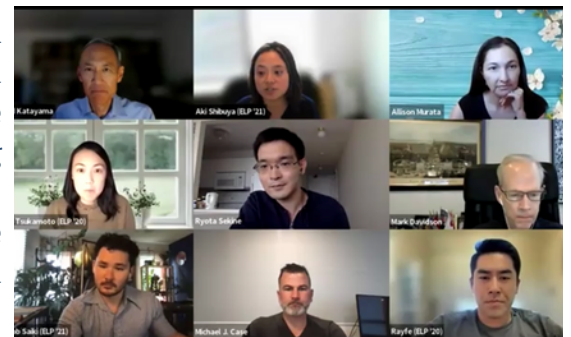
-Ellen Kamei
(ELP '15)



From April 28 to 30, the ELP Steering Committee held its planning retreat in Chicago and met with regional members through the “Kanpai Chicago” event. [Read more.](#)



On May 9, the ELP held a Kaiwa Series talk titled “Tapping into a Culture of Giving: Making Nonprofits Sustainable” with USJC Executive Vice President Fred Katayama. [Read more.](#)



Next Generation Leadership TOMODACHI Initiative



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. [Learn more.](#)



“I was born and raised in a place where there were few Japanese people around, but participating in the [TOMODACHI] program gave me a sense of pride in my Japanese culture and traditions, and gave me the confidence to influence others.”

~Sarah Okuno, (TOMODACHI '22)

10,147

Total Participants Since Inception

46,894

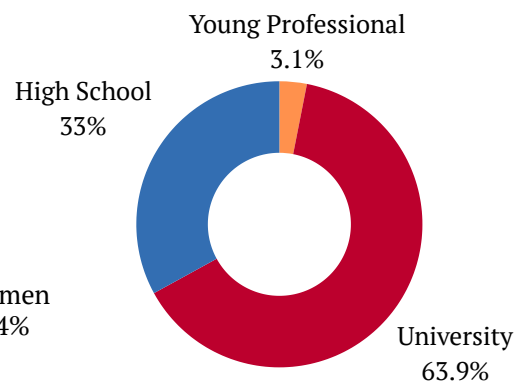
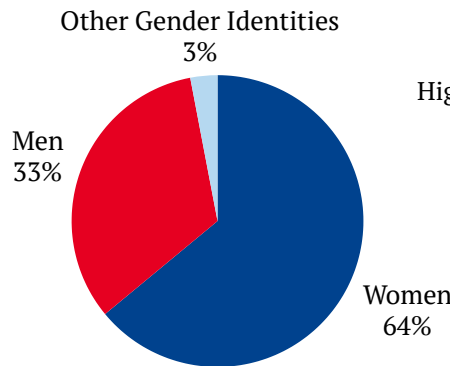
Total Program & Event Participants

371

Total Programs Since Inception

169

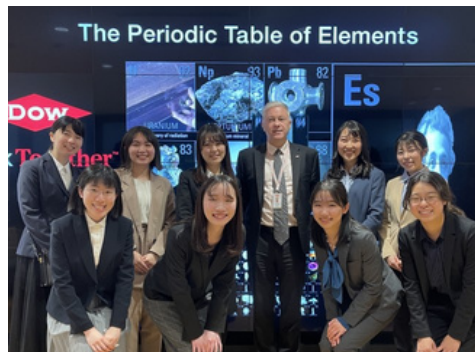
Participants in 2023



Program Highlights



The TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program brought Japanese nursing students to the United States for the first time since 2019. [Read more.](#)



The TOMODACHI-STEM Women’s Leadership and Research Program connected Japanese female undergraduates pursuing STEM degrees to research opportunities in the United States. [Read more.](#)



The TOMODACHI Summer SoftBank Leadership Program provided study abroad opportunities for students from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures. [Read more.](#)



Next Generation Leadership TOMODACHI Initiative



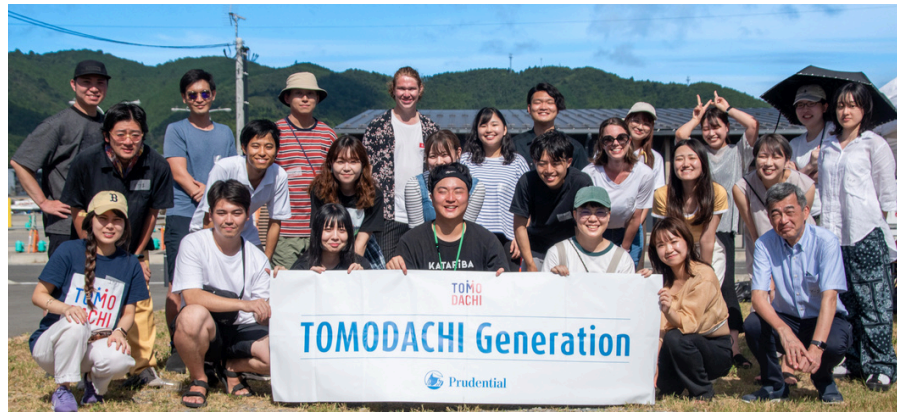
“The TOMODACHI program inspired me in two ways: one, it taught me the importance of caring for myself to care for others, and two, it taught me the value of people-to-people connections to help me challenge myself and helped me grow.”

-[You Sato](#)



Staying Engaged

From the snow-covered landscapes of Hokkaido to the tropical shores of Okinawa in Japan, from New York to California; the TOMODACHI Alumni Regional Representatives brought alumni together. From riverbank cleanups, to mini-golf nights, and learning about Japanese American history, TOMODACHI is a lifelong experience. [Learn more.](#)



Next Generation Summit



On July 1, the TOMODACHI Next Generation Summit took place in Tokyo and inspired attendees with a vision of what is possible when young people take the reins in international relations and community empowerment and provided a roadmap for the rich and varied discussions to follow. [Learn more.](#)



Membership



The U.S.-Japan Council comprises members and supporters across the United States and Japan, as well as other countries, 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.

“What motivates me to stay as a member for the USJC community is to be part of a diverse community and the feeling of family. When you look at the people within the community, there’s so many kinds of people when you look in terms of ages or professional backgrounds, even gender and race and ethnicity. And as part of the family feeling, when I travel to the other regions, I’ve attended the events, and even though I didn’t know anyone there, they would just welcome me like I’m part of the family.”



-Darin Arita

612

Council Leaders
Members 40+ years old

280

Associates
Members under 40 years old

4

Friends of the
Council

896

Total Members
(As of December 31, 2023)

737

Members in
the United States

153

Members in
Japan

There are 6 other members based outside of
the United States and Japan.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

Student



Healthcare



Education



Government



Business



Law



Nonprofit



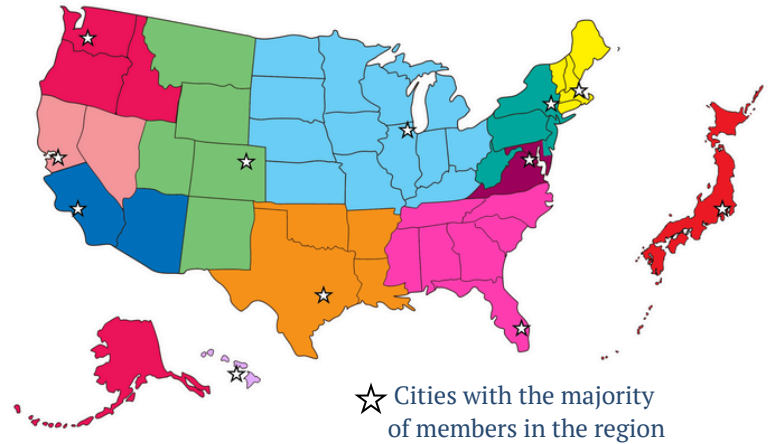
Membership

Regions

Membership is divided into 12 regions across the United States and Japan. Regions engage local communities through events and activities centered around networking activities and educational events.

12
Total
Regions

► [Learn more](#)

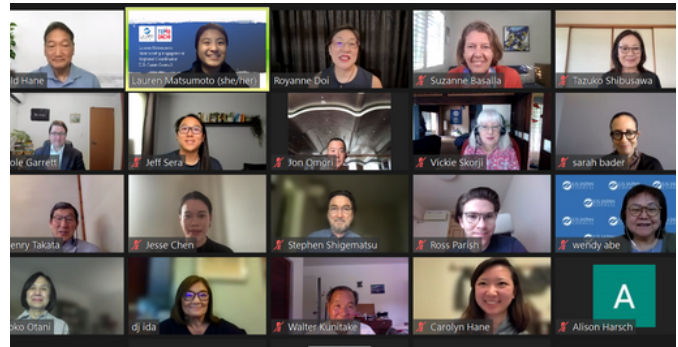


Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups are member-led initiatives, connecting members through discussion-based networking opportunities built around shared interests, professional fields, identities and more.

12
Affinity
Groups

► [Learn more](#)



Member Event Highlights



Midwest and Southeast Region Collaboration Event on Japanese American Incarceration Camps

On January 19, members heard from keynote speaker Sally Ohno Sudo on the experiences of Japanese Americans during incarceration. [Read more.](#)



Japan Region Tours National Diet

On July 6, Japan members were privileged to be led on a private tour of the National Diet by Digital Minister KONO Taro. Members learned fascinating facts about the seat of government. [Read more.](#)



NorCal Region Visits Toyota Research Institute (TRI)

On November 14, NorCal members got a glimpse of the future of robotics and driving at the TRI Robotics and Human Interactive Driving divisions. [Read more.](#)

Board Leadership

Board of Directors



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.

Board Officers

Kathy Matsui, *Co-Chair*, General Partner, MPower Partners
Susan Morita, *Co-Chair*; Retired Partner, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
Suzanne Basalla, *President and CEO*; U.S.-Japan Council

Eiichiro Kuwana, *Treasurer*; President and Founding Principal, Cook Pine Capital LLC
Ann Teranishi, *Secretary*; President and CEO, American Savings Bank
Kazuhiro Gomi, *Development Committee Chair*; President and CEO, NTT Research, Inc.

Todd Guild, Senior Advisor to Vice Chairman, Suntory Holdings Limited
Joshua Morey, *Nominating & Governance Committee Chair*; President, The J. Morey Company, Inc.

Board Members

David Kenji Chang, *Finance Committee Chair*; Founder, AN Capital Partners
Sachi Hamai, Former Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County
Yoh Kawanami, Director, Hawaiian Electric Company
Brad Miyake, City Manager, City of Bellevue
Andrew Ogawa, Managing Partner and Founder, Quest Venture Partners

Mark Okada, *Investment Committee Chair*; Co-Founder & CEO, Sycamore Tree Capital Partners L.P.
Yoko Otani, *Audit Committee Chair*; Partner, Straterix Inc.
Curtiss Takada Rooks, *Program Development Committee Chair*; Assistant Professor of Asian Pacific American Studies, Loyola Marymount University
Yoshiteru ("Terry") Suzuki, President and CEO, ORIX Corporation USA

Rona Tison, *Engagement Committee Chair*; Executive Vice President, Corporate Relations, ITO EN (North America), Inc.
Minoru Tsumura, Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP
William Tsutsui, Chancellor, Ottawa University
Masami Tyson, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (JAPAN)

Board Officers

Suzanne Basalla, Representative Director President and CEO, U.S.-Japan Council

Henry Seiichi Takata, Representative Director; Representative Director, Syn Tech Japan Co., Ltd.

Norie Iwamoto, *Internal Auditor*; Director, Assurance-Technology, Media, and Telecom, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Arata LLC

Board Members

Aya Kameda, General Manager, Shell Energy Japan
Takashi Ohde, Advisor, Gakushuin Women's College Institute of International Studies

Jenifer Rogers, General Counsel Asia, Asurion Japan Holdings G.K.
Stephen Hiroshi Sakanashi, Director of Marketing & Global Strategy, Matchbox Technologies

Miyuki Tani, Executive Director, Morgan Stanley Capital K.K.



Board Leadership

Board of Councilors



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.

Board Officers

Ernest M. Higa, *Chair*; Chairman, President & CEO, Higa Industries Co., Ltd.

Takeshi Niinami, *Vice Chair*; Representative Director, President & CEO, Suntory Holdings Limited

Masaaki Tanaka, *Vice Chair*; Former Representative Director and Deputy President, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.; Former Chairman, President and CEO, Nippon Paint Holdings Ltd.

Board Members

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The U.S.-Japan Council'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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Planned Giving

The U.S.-Japan Council launched the Irene Hirano and Daniel K. Inouye Legacy Society in 2023 as part of its new Planned Giving program to honor the legacy of the visionary co-founders of the Council. The program will also help sustain the future of the Council by providing a solid financial foundation. To learn more about the Legacy Society, [visit our website](#).

Inaugural Legacy Society Members



- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Suzanne and John Basalla | Josh Morey |
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Major gifts are catalysts. Unlike planned gifts that shape our future, major gifts provide immediate support that enables USJC to address current needs.

USJC hosted the panel “Building Your Legacy - Planned Giving 101” at the 2023 Annual Conference. Pictured: Josh Morey, Stephen Kagawa, Sarah Constantine, Fred Katayama.



“Both [Ken Inouye and I] are so touched. This Planned Giving Legacy Society is so personal to me, really, because it ensures the future of this organization which is the life’s blood and work all summed up in my mom and the Senator...I’m really tickled by the idea that there are TOMODACHI participants today that could be future USJC board members... By giving in this way, in this meaningful way, you’re ensuring that this is a possibility for these young people whom we may not have even met yet.”

-Jennifer Hirano

Daughter of founding president Irene Hirano Inouye



“I hope my gift will secure a much **stronger** future for the USJC and TOMODACHI program.”

~Michael Lerch

Founder, President & Global Chief Investment Officer,
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