



## **PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Position Announcement**

*Mission: Serving as the hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture and a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires — JACCC connects traditional and contemporary; community participants and creative professionals; Southern California and the world beyond.*

### **BACKGROUND**

Founded in 1971, JACCC is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States. Its facilities include the Center Building (which houses the George J. Doizaki Gallery, the Japanese Cultural Room and Teahouse, classrooms and office space for non-profit organizations), the 880-seat Aratani Theatre, the Isamu Noguchi-designed Sculpture and Plaza, and the award-winning James Irvine Japanese Garden. JACCC occupies a unique place in the Los Angeles arts and cultural ecosystem as one of the largest arts and cultural organizations of color in the country while still serving local and regional artists and cultural organizations that use JACCC's campus for meetings, gatherings, and cultural events.

### **PROGRAMS**

JACCC produces a series of multidisciplinary programs inspired by Japanese tradition and energized by the future. Each year JACCC attracts more than 121,000 people representing a multi-generational, multi-ethnic audience from across the Southern California regions and visitors from across the world.

**PERFORMING ARTS.** JACCC has presented traditional & contemporary presentations of dance, music, and theater from Grand Kabuki of Japan to jazz fusion band, Hiroshima. More recently, JACCC partnered with East West Players to present the Broadway musical *Allegiance* starring George Takei. The sold-out performances attracted an audience of over 20,000 in its telling of the Japanese American experience during World War II. The Aratani World Series featured world music and dance in partnership with Festival of World Sacred Music. JACCC Master Artist- in-Residence, Hirokazu Kosaka, curates JACCC's signature New Year performance, Kotohajime. Every Sunday in July, JACCC programs the *Little Tokyo Garden Concerts* in the James Irvine Japanese Garden, producing a diverse line-up of L.A.'s most innovative musicians. From a presentation by Nomura Mansaku, a Living National Treasure of the classical Japanese comedy theatre style of *Kyogen* to a recent hip-hop dance adaptation of the Pandora's Box myth to a local Grammy Award-winning Chican@ Rock band or an annual Asian American comedy festival, JACCC's performing arts capture the vibrancy of the arts on both a local and global level.

**VISUAL ARTS.** Exhibitions from Japan and the United States have included such artists as Isamu Noguchi and Mike Kanemitsu. More recently, JACCC has exhibited the exquisite collection of Edo period Japanese screens, scrolls, and bamboo baskets from the world-renowned Joe and Etsuko Price Collection. A group exhibition featured both Jewish & Japanese artists as part of *Voices of L.A.: The Krupnick Festival of the Arts*. JACCC was part of the L.A. Islamic Art Initiative through an exhibition *Way of Ink & Brush*, an anthology of traditional/contemporary Islamic, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese calligraphy. Exhibitions have included major shows from Japan and the United States featuring artists such as Isamu Noguchi and Bruce Yonemoto.

TRADITIONAL ARTS. JACCC actively engages with local Japanese cultural groups, through exhibitions, demonstrations, and a training space in the Center's Japanese Teahouse, as well as the James Irvine Japanese Garden. Programs center on *ikebana* floral arrangement, tea, and calligraphy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. JACCC is inherently a Community Engagement organization working with artists, cultural workers, and community stakeholders to collaborate to provide a series of free public programs throughout the year. Events include JACCC's children's day festival, Fiesta Matsuri (Dia De Los Niños & Kodomo No Hi celebrated together on the JACCC plaza), the annual Nisei Week Festival & FandangObon, a multi-ethnic event inviting people to dance. JACCC and Keiro will launch Keiro No Hi, a festival for older adults, their families and caretakers on the JACCC plaza in Fall 2018. JACCC partnered with musicians/entrepreneurs to establish U-Space, a ukulele cafe/school, performance space and mobile ukulele lab. Through this partnership the Center has launched a new program, "Ukuleles for Little Tokyo," to provide low-income youth and senior residents of Little Tokyo with ukuleles, music lessons, and opportunities to perform for the local community and attend performances free of charge. JACCC is also a lead partner in Sustainable Little Tokyo, a community-wide initiative to transform its 130-year-old historic neighborhood into an enduring cultural ecodistrict through innovative green infrastructure, small business growth, and the preservation of its unique Japanese/Japanese American identity through arts and culture.

CULINARY ARTS. In 2016, JACCC expanded its definition of arts and culture to include the exploration of foodways and cultural expression through the culinary arts. JACCC has taught intimate, hands-on workshops and large cooking demonstrations for a multi-generational audience that covers a variety of Japanese culinary topics from miso making, pickling and traditional food cooked during the new years. JACCC has hosted three guest chef engagements with celebrity chefs, such as Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, as well as many local legends. JACCC is approximately 50% to goal for our capital campaign to build the Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center that will feature a commercial kitchen to host culinary classes, demonstrations, guest chef experiences and an expanded special event space adjacent to the James Irvine Japanese Garden.

## **PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

### **Position Description**

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) is seeking an innovative, skillful organizational manager with a passion for JACCC's mission and excited to build on the organization's momentum and lead it into the future.

The President and Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the overall successful operation and performance of JACCC. This includes oversight of all programs and fund development efforts, as well as the fiscal health and structural soundness of the organization. Reporting to and working closely with the Board of Directors, the President and CEO oversees an annual budget of approximately \$3.2 million and a total staff of 21 full-time employees, more than 40 part-time and contractual/seasonal staff, and 200 volunteers. The President and CEO also serves as the external representative of JACCC with constituent communities, stakeholders and local, national, and international officials.

Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

#### **Business Development and Fundraising**

- Lead in the development of new funding opportunities while working closely with the staff and Board to sustain and grow existing funding.
- Identify, assess, and establish new relationships and partnerships with prospective donors and business partnerships to further development opportunities, mission, and vision.

#### **Leadership and Vision**

- Provide key leadership for developing and implementing programmatic opportunities, marketing new, innovative programs, and maximizing the Center's theater, plaza, and building assets.
- Oversee the development and implementation of the Center's five-year strategic plan and ensure that overall organizational objectives are met.

#### **Financial Management**

- Manage the financial health of JACCC
- Develop, monitor and manage annual operating budgets, including long-range budget plans.
- Ensure that the Board is regularly informed on the financial status of the organization through proper and timely reporting
- Maintain compliance with legal regulations and parameters.
- Manage and implement adequate risk management.

#### **Community Outreach and Public Relations**

- Articulate the vision, mission, programs, and impact of JACCC with all constituencies as public spokesperson for the organization.
- Cultivate a sense of community with the Japanese and Japanese American communities, Board and staff, donors, volunteers and community partners.
- Identify opportunities to expand the scope and reach of JACCC
- Cultivate and maintain strong relationships with our neighbors in Little Tokyo, other community organizations, and national and international partners.

#### **Staff Development**

- Lead senior management team and staff members to strengthen and support the programmatic and operational goals of JACCC
- Provide organizational leadership to ensure a positive, healthy work environment that attracts and retains top talent and builds teamwork.

## **QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS**

The President and Chief Executive Officer will be an entrepreneurial, collaborative and visionary leader who deeply believes in JACCC's mission and its multidimensional role among various communities. The ideal candidate will possess exceptional interpersonal skills and have the ability to interact effectively with staff, Board members, community members, civic leaders, and partnering organizations that are in the United States and Japan. Although it is preferable that the ideal candidate come with a background in the arts and with experience and knowledge of Japanese culture — both contemporary and traditional — it is possible that the candidate may come from another sector, but demonstrate a personal connection to JACCC's mission. The President and CEO will be a strong manager, who has the ability to lead an organization forward with enthusiasm, energy, and a sense of humor. To this end, this individual should not only possess strong interpersonal and organizational skills, but also have the ability to think clearly and strategically, to generate new ideas, as well as implement and follow-through on existing goals. Experience working with Board members and donors is important, as is strong demonstrated success in fundraising efforts in the non-profit sector.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred.
- At least five to ten years in a senior management position within a professional organization.
- Successful track record in business development or fundraising in the private and/or public sectors.
- Entrepreneurial attributes for assessing risks and taking prudent action on opportunities.
- Knowledge of and experience with the Japanese and Japanese American communities.
- Knowledge of and experience with Japanese art and culture.
- Strong fiscal management skills.
- Demonstrated ability in team oriented management of a diverse professional staff.
- Strong and effective oral and written communication skills.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This position requires up to 10% of travel outside the local area and overnight. Some of the travel is international.

## **COMPENSATION**

A competitive salary and benefits will be provided.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Please direct inquiries, nominations, and applications, including resume and a compelling letter of interest in confidence to JACCC Search Committee: [ceosearch@jaccc.org](mailto:ceosearch@jaccc.org)

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 14, 2018**

*JACCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment decisions are made without regard ace, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic factors, military/veteran status or other characteristics protected by law*