

Arts Council Tokyo: outline of the traditional culture programs in FY2020.

Five programs to be implemented including first online exclusive video distribution programs.

Based on the theme “Approaching Tokyo Tradition”, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) offers diverse projects and programs for people who are not familiar with traditional arts and culture, as well as for people overseas and children to enjoy Japan’s authentic traditional arts and culture. Many scheduled programs, however, had to be cancelled or postponed due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Arts Council Tokyo has decided to implement five programs of traditional Japanese culture, part of which has started from this fall, to transmit the appeal of arts and culture of Tokyo to both in and out of Japan, taking measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Our project consists of four categories of Festivals, Traditional Performing Arts Program, Programs for Foreign Visitors, and Kids program.

“Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour 2020 - Japanese Traditional Culture Festival”, which was scheduled to take place in May as one of Festivals programs, and “Noh online: Funa Benkei, Legendary Hero, Riding the Wave from Tokyo to the World” a program for people overseas who cannot come to Japan due to COVID-19 will be visualized and released online.

In “Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour 2020 - Japanese Traditional Culture Festival”, the videos provide the sound and performances unique to Kagurazaka area including interviews with local people and artists in a city-walking style. The videos of two versions of Japanese and English are scheduled to be released after December. “Noh Online: Funa Benkei” with English subtitles, scheduled to be released at the end of January, utilizes a variety of camera work, including filming from close proximity to the performers on stage. This provides a dynamic Noh experience, which is different from the usual Noh play viewing. Both of them will be posted on the official YouTube channels, where people overseas would enjoy.

As Traditional Performing Arts Program, the popular program “Oedo Vaudeville Show and Traditional Geisha Dances X” which celebrates its 10th year will be held at Meijiza Theater in March 28, 2021. This is an entertaining performance that allows you to simultaneously enjoy the dance and music by geisha and the yose vaudeville show including rakugo the traditional storytelling performance that blossomed in the height of the townspeople’s culture in the Edo Period.

“Traditional Performing Arts for Kids”, the program that children receive the direct lessons from professional performers for months to make a final public performance in a formal way on stage, has started in November. As we eventually have up to nearly 1,400 applicants, we really feel the high level of interest in this program due to lack of children’s activities under the COVID-19 crisis.

“Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Kids”, which sends young performers to schools to provide children the opportunity to contact with Japanese traditional culture and performing arts and to learn diversity of cultures, has started in September. This program is planned to be implemented at 40 schools this fiscal year.

We take measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus in each project.

Details of each event/program are introduced in following pages. More details will be informed on the website below. All programs are subject to change without notice.

The latest information for programs in the future will be updated on the following official website (in Japanese and English).

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■ Festivals

Festivals for numerous people to casually enjoy traditional cultures, transmitting the charm of traditional cultures seeking the uniqueness and variety of Tokyo.

Program Name	Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour 2020 - Japanese Traditional Culture Festival
Dates/ How to watch	Japanese version: To be released in December, 2020 English version: To be released in January, 2021 Four videos will be available on the official YouTube channel. They will be archived so that anyone can watch them at any time, free of charge. https://kaguramachi.jp/
Contents	In the Kagurazaka area, where tradition meets modernity, we have been holding a number of chic and stylish live performances of traditional performing arts, and this program will be introduced in a city-walking style videos this year. Videos include interviews with local people and artists to show the appeal of this program that combines the town of Kagurazaka with traditional arts and culture. You can enjoy the history of the area, Ozashiki- Asobi games with Geisha, the sounds and performances of Kagurazaka such as Shin-nai nagashi, the strolling with Shamisen.
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), NPO Ikimachi Club
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government



■ Program for Foreign Visitors

Programs which provides people overseas the opportunity to enjoy traditional performing arts.

Program Name	Experience and Appreciation Program Noh Online: Funa Benkei, Legendary Hero, Riding the Wave from Tokyo to the World
Period/ How to watch	End of January – March, 2021 You can watch it on official website by free of charge http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/2020/eng/
Contents	Noh “Funa Benkei (Benkei in a boat)”, well-known Noh play, at Kita Noh Theatre filmed as visual artwork will be distributed online with English subtitles and commentary. Cameras installed on the Noh stage to film each scene make dynamic digital experience which is very different from the usual audience view. A special bilingual webpage of “Noh Online: Funa Benkei” will be opened on the official website to introduce the story, the characters and such in an easy-to-understand manner for first-time overseas viewers to render the appreciation of Noh play.
Title/ Performers	Noh “Funa Benkei” Shinnoden Takehito Tomoeda, Kinya Hosyo, Mansai Nomura, and others
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Produced by	Roppeita XIV Commemorative Foundation



Noh “Funa Benkei” Photo: Yutaka Ishida

■ Traditional Performing Arts Programs

Programs with contents that implement authentic traditional performances in easy to understand formats for those who are unfamiliar with Japanese traditional culture and arts.

Program Name	Oedo Vaudeville Show and Traditional Geisha Dances X
Venue / Dates	Meijiza Theater < 2-31-1, Nihonbashi Hamacho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo > March 28 (Sun), 2021 starts at 3:30 pm
Contents	This traditional performing arts show provides “Yose”, a traditional vaudeville show including “Rakugo” (a traditional comical storytelling art) flourished in the townspeople’s culture of Edo period, along with the beautiful traditional geisha dances and music performed by geishas from Tokyo’s six districts namely Akasaka, Asakusa, Kagurazaka, Mukojima, Shimbashi and Yoshicho, and performances by "Hokan", a male entertainer.
Performers	Oedo Vaudeville Show / YANAGIYA Gontaro (Rakugo), KAGAMI Michiyo (Daikagura), SAKAMOTO Masayuki (Wadaiko) Traditional Geisha Dances / Dancers and musicians from 6 entertainment districts of Tokyo, namely Akasaka, Asakusa, Kagurazaka, Mukojima, Shimbashi and Yoshicho. SAKURAGAWA Yoneshichi (Hokan) Guide / Seiji Kasai
Admission (Tax included)	S (1st, 2nd-floor): 5,000 yen, A (3rd-floor): 4,000 yen, A (3rd-floor/Students): 2,000 yen * No entry for children under 5 years old.
Ticket sales	On sale from February 13 (Sat) at 10:00am [FAX] Download the ticket reservation form from the official website and fill in and send it to 03-3660-1657 *It will be able to downloaded from February 13 (Sat). [The box office] Meijiza Theater Box Office (10am-5pm) 03-3660-3941 [E-mail] Fill in your name, phone number, seat type, number of tickets, and send it to oedo@meijiza.co.jp
Contact	Vaudeville Show and Geisha Dances administration office TEL : 03-3660-3941 (10:00am – 6:00pm) FAX: 03-3660-1657 E-mail : oedo@meijiza.co.jp Official Website: https://geisha-dance2020.jp/
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Produced by	Meijiza Theater



YANAGIYA Gontaro



KAGAMI Michiyo



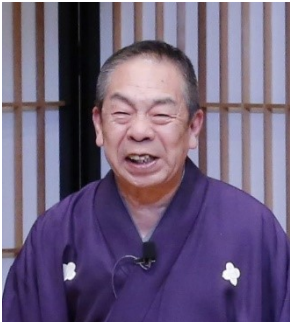
SAKAMOTO Masayuki



Seiji Kasai



Geisha dancers and musicians from 6 entertainment districts



SAKURAGAWA
Yoneshichi

Kids Programs

Experiential programs at schools and programs that combine coaching at Noh theater, etc. for several months and achievement presentations, for children to learn Japanese traditional culture and performing arts.

Program Name	Traditional Performing Arts for Kids	
Venue	Lessons: Umewaka Noh Theatre, Kine-ie Kaikan, Shizan Kaikan, Shinjuku Bunka Center, Geino-Kadensha, Higashimurayama City Central Community Center, Tamashin RISURU Hall Public performance: Hosho Noh Theatre, National Theatre (Large Theatre)	
Period	November, 2020 – March, 2021	* Application has been closed.
Contents	This program aims to develop the aesthetic sensibilities and minds of the next generation through the traditional performing arts that Japanese people have cherished over the centuries. Over several months, participating children will receive direct lessons from leading performers culminating in a public performance showcasing what they have learned. Standard program for students from elementary school to high school offers 14 lessons in each field of Utai/Shimai, Kyogen, Shamisen, Hayashi (Shinobue), Hayashi (Kotsuzumi/Taiko), Sokyoku (Koto), Shakuhachi and Nihon buyo. Youth program for students from junior high and high school offers 10 lessons of Shamisen, Sokyoku and Nihon buyo.	
Organized by	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations (Geidankyo)	

Program Name	Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Kids	
Venue	Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools, Compulsory Education Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Needs Schools, and International Schools that are accredited as schools, within the metropolis of Tokyo	
Period	September, 2020 – February, 2021	* Application has been closed.
Contents	As part of school education, we will provide hands-on programs taught by young performers and practitioners that bring children into contact with Japanese traditional culture and performing arts, thereby providing them with an accurate understanding of both the value of Japanese culture and a diversity of cultures.	
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)	
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government	

Traditional Performing Arts for Kids



Photo: Kota Sugawara

Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Kids

