

Arts Council Tokyo Announces FY 2016 Lineup of Traditional Culture Programs

The Arts Council Tokyo under the wing of the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture will hold a variety of programs, including a large-scale outdoor festival to promote traditional Japanese culture and performing arts, and a series of workshops/shows intended for foreign visitors at tourist attractions in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

The council holds a wide variety of innovative new projects and programs for easy access and enjoyment of authentic traditional culture and performing arts. These programs are intended for people who are unfamiliar with traditional culture and performing arts, foreign visitors, and children who are responsible for the future of traditional culture. The following program lineup will be implemented in fiscal 2016 through March 2017.

1. Festivals

We will hold a festival which conveys the appeal of traditional culture to both inside and outside of Japan. The festival will make it easy for many people to experience traditional culture, while also pursuing the uniqueness and diversity of Tokyo. As a new initiative this year, we will hold events such as a festival which is held in the Hachioji area while utilizing the cultural resources of the Tama region.

2. Programs for foreign visitors

At locations such as tourist attractions in the Tokyo metropolitan area, we will hold accessible short programs which allow foreign visitors to experience traditional Japanese culture and performing arts. We will also hold authentic programs which combine hands-on experience with the viewing of performances.

3. Traditional performing arts concerts

In order to broadly convey the appeal of traditional Japanese culture and performing arts, we will hold easy-to-understand performances of authentic traditional performing arts so that the young generation and foreign visitors can become familiar with traditional culture and performing arts.

4. Programs for children

In order to give children the opportunity to come into contact with traditional Japanese culture and performing arts, we will hold hands-on experience programs at schools in Tokyo, and programs which combine several months of instruction at facilities such as Noh theaters in Tokyo with the presentation of program results.

Please refer to the attached list for program details. (Total of 8 pages)

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CULTURE



TOKYO

Program 1:

Program	Legendary Tamatebako (Treasure Box) - Tama Traditional Culture Festival 2016
Date	Saturday, November 26, and Sunday, November 27, 2016
Venue	Area around Hachioji Station (U-Road (Nishi Hoshasen U-Road)), Hachiman Yakumo Shrine, etc.
Content	Authentic performances at downtown venues, outdoor stages and shrine halls dedicated in cooperation with municipalities and arts/cultural organizations of the Tama Region and programs designed with local universities making the best of cultural resources of the region will entertain the visitors.
Performers	Nishikawa Koryu Troupe, Hachioji Geisha Guild, Association for Preservation of Akigawa Kabuki (Akiruno Za), Mitsume Hayashi Promotion Association, Tokyo Zokei University Graduate School Hachioji Shadow Play Project, and others
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) Hachioji College Community & Culture Fureai Foundation
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Hachioji City

Program 2:

Program	Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony 2016
Date	Saturday, September 24, and Sunday, September 25, 2016 (1) Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16, 2016 (2)
Venue	(1) Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum, (2) Hama-rikyu Gardens
Content	Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony is a large-scale tea ceremony festival which is open to participation from the general public. Participants can attend tea ceremonies held in buildings at the Hama-rikyu Gardens and Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum, and open-air ceremonies held under the autumn sky. All tea ceremonies are held in cooperation with organizations which conduct activities in Tokyo. A variety of tea ceremony schools, including the three major historical schools Omote-senke, Ura-senke and Mushanokoji-senke; collectively known as the San-senke, they will gather for the Grand Tea Ceremony.
Organized by	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by (scheduled)	Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association [in Hama-rikyu Gardens]
Supported by (scheduled)	Chuo City [in Hama-rikyu Gardens] Koganei City, Koganei City Chamber of Commerce and Industry [in Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum]
Cooperated by	Tokyo Metropolitan Tea Ceremony/Flower Arrangement Federation [in Hama-rikyu Gardens] Tokyo Metropolitan Tea Ceremony Association, Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum (scheduled) [in Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum]

Program 3:

Program	Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour 2016 (Japanese Traditional Culture Festival)
Date	[Eve] Saturday, November 12 [Main Festival] Sunday, November 13, 2016
Venue	Kagurazaka Area
Content	We will hold a variety of sophisticated and stylish traditional performing arts events at Bishamonten Zenkoku-ji Temple, Kagurazaka-dori street, and the stone-paved alleys of the Kagurazaka district, where the traditional blends with the modern. We also offer traditional Japanese parlor games (ozashiki-asobi) experience and a one-day stamp-collecting event (a program in which people visit a range of locations to collect stamps in order to get traditional Japanese hand towels.) that facilitates contact with Japan's traditional culture, performing arts and meeting the charm of this area for everyone including non-Japanese and the young generation.
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 4:

Program	Engei Workshop
Date	Every Saturday from April 9, 2016, to March 25, 2017 (Excluding December 31, 2016)
Time	12:30~13:00, 14:00~14:30, 16:00~16:30
Venue	Edo-Tokyo Museum
Content	Participants can experience techniques used in a variety of performances (traditional acrobatics, "kamikiri" paper crafts, and Japanese magic tricks) which are still popular at vaudeville shows even today. The event also includes performances and examples by professional performers. Participants can experience the skillful techniques used in the auspicious art of umbrella rotating, kamikiri crafts in which simple shapes are created using only paper and scissors, and magic which has been performed since the Edo period (1603-1867). *Contents vary depending on the day.
Price	Free (separate fee required for viewing a permanent exhibition)
How to Participate	Participation is on a first-come-first-serve basis.
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	RAKUGO GEIJYUTSU association

Program 5:

Program	Traditional Japanese Dance Workshop
Date	Every Sunday from April 10, 2016, to March 26, 2017 (Excluding May 15, July 31, September 18, and December 11 in 2016, and January 1, January 8, February 12, February 26, and March 12 in 2017)
Time	11:30~12:30, 13:30~14:30, 15:30~16:30
Venue	Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center
Content	This program allows participants to experience simple movements of Nihon Buyo (traditional Japanese dance) while wearing a "yukata" (informal cotton kimono). Participants can also watch professional dancers perform a short section of Fuji Musume (Wisteria Maiden). There will also be an opportunity to take photos with instructors at the end.
Price	Free
How to Participate	Sign up on the 1st floor of the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center on the day of the program
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by	Taito City
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	Japanese Classical Dance Association (Joto Block, Tokyo Branch)

Program 6:

Program	Shamisen of Nagauta Workshop
Date	Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11, 2016; Saturday, January 7, and Sunday, January 8; Saturday, February 11, and Sunday, February 12; Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12, 2017.
Time	Scheduled to be held 4 times per day.
Venue	Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center
Content	"Nagauta," which originated as the kabuki music and developed as shamisen (three-string instrument) music, is a type of traditional Japanese music played on shamisen. You can try shamisen and professional Nagauta players will give a powerful performance and explain Nagauta in a way that makes it easy even for first-timers to understand.
Price	Free
How to Participate	Sign up on the 1st floor of the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center on the day of the program
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by	Taito City
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperation by	Nagauta Association

Program 7:

Program Name	Kado Workshop
Date	Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16, 2016
Venue	Hama-rikyu Gardens
Content	A simple explanation of Kado (flower arrangement) will be provided and participants can try Kado under the instruction of professional teachers. After the workshop, participants can make flower arrangement at home.
Price	To be confirmed (admission fee is charged for Hama-rikyu Gardens.)
How to Participate	To be confirmed
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Program 8:

Program	Let's All Enjoy the World of Nihon Buyo - The Japan - (provisional name)
Date	Saturday, March 4, 2017
Time	Doors open at 13:00. Performance starts at 14:00. (scheduled times)
Venue	Nihonbashi Public Hall (Nihonbashi Theater)
Content	Foreign visitors can enjoy the performances of Nihon Buyo (traditional Japanese dance) and Hogaku (traditional Japanese music). In addition to hands-on experiences in playing traditional Japanese instruments such as the Shamisen three-string guitar and Taiko drums, participants can also try on stage makeup and costumes. Participants can view performances based on themes representing Japan, and the program will provide easy-to-understand enjoyment of traditional performing arts.
Performers	Senyoichi Nishikawa, Etsuko Fujima, Yuka Mizuki, Jutaichiro Hanayagi, Satojiro Wakayagi, and others
Price	Adult: 1,000 yen, Student: 500 yen (scheduled)
On Sale	Around October to November, 2016 (scheduled)
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	The Asahi Shimbun Company
Produced by	Another company

Program 9:

Program	Noh theater in the garden - Spreading Japanese elegance from Tokyo to the world -
Date	Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25, 2017
Time	To be confirmed
Venue	Gardens of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum (outdoors) *In the event of rain, scheduled to be held at Kita Noh Theatre
Content	For two days in early spring, outdoor Noh performances will be held in the gardens of the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum. Enjoy these performances and forget about the hustle and bustle of the city. In addition to popular programs such as “Yashima” and “Kurama Tengu,” both of which portray the war hero Minamoto Yoshitsune. Hands-on programs will also offer the opportunity to touch masks, costumes and instruments. The programs will allow foreign visitors who are unfamiliar with traditional performing arts to fully enjoy Noh.
Performers	Friday, March 24: Seiji Kagawa, Akio Shiotsu, Kinya Hosho, Mansai Nomura, and others (scheduled) Saturday, March 25: Akiyo Tomoeda, Takehito Tomoeda, Hiroshi Obinata, and others (scheduled)
Price	Adult: 3,000 yen, Student: 1,500 yen (scheduled)
On Sale	Around October to November, 2016 (scheduled)
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by	Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	The Asahi Shimbun Company
Produced by	Roppeita XIV Commemorative Foundation

Program 10:

Program	Rakugo: Traditional Storytelling and Traditional Geisha Dances
Date	Monday, September 19 (national holiday), 2016
Time	Doors open at 14:30. Performance starts at 15:00. (scheduled times)
Venue	National Theatre
Content	This entertaining performance of traditional arts features “rakugo” (traditional comic storytelling), which developed in the merchant culture of Edo, as well as the traditional dance and music by Geisha which shows the atmosphere of the historical entertainment district of the city. This year, we plan to create an even more exciting performance by adding new features.
Performers	Geisha groups from Shinbashi, Akasaka, Asakusa, Kagurazaka, Yoshicho, Mukojima, and others
Price	S Seat: 5,000 yen, A Seat: 4,000 yen, Student: 2,000 yen
On Sale	Early July 2016 (scheduled)
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	The Asahi Shimbun Company

Program 11:

Program	17th Tama River Basin Folk Performance Festival
Date	Sunday, December 4, 2016
Time	Doors open at 12:00. Performance starts at 12:30. (scheduled times)
Venue	Komae Ecorma Hall
Content	In order to revitalize local performing arts and promote regional culture through the exchange of regional culture from the Tama River Basin, 9 groups will perform local arts which were born in the Tama River Basin.
Performers	Local performing arts groups from 9 municipalities in the Tama River Basin
Price	Free
Organized by	Tama River Basin Folk Performance Festival Executive Committee Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Program 12:

Program	J-CULTURE FEST (provisional name) <Collaborative Project>
Date	Monday, January 2 and Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Time	To be confirmed
Venue	Tokyo International Forum Hall B7
Content	By cooperating with the J-CULTURE FEST event which is held by the Tokyo International Forum and conveys the appeal of Japanese culture from the traditional to the modern, we will hold traditional performing arts which can be easily enjoyed by anyone.
Performers	Mansai Nomura and others
Price	3,000 yen (scheduled)
On Sale	End of August, 2016 (scheduled)
<p>*This program is held in cooperation with the following event. <J-CULTURE FEST></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date Sunday, January 1 (national holiday) to Tuesday, January 3, 2017 • Organized by Tokyo International Forum Co.LTD • Co-organized by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) 	

Documentation 13:

Program	Celtic Noh "At the Hawk's Well"
Date	Thursday, February 16, 2017
Time	Doors open at 18:00. Performance starts at 19:00. (scheduled times)
Venue	Bunkamura Orchard Hall
Content	A new production of "At the Hawk's Well," originally composed by Irish poet and Nobel Prize winner W.B. Yeats, has been created through collaboration between Noh players including Gensho Umewaka (designated as a Living National Treasure) and the Irish Celtic chorus ensemble Anuna. Through this production, we will re-examine the influence of Japanese Noh on art throughout the world over a 100-year period, and broadly advertise Noh's impact both in Japan and overseas.
Performers	Gensho Umewaka (Noh player), Anuna (Celtic ensemble), etc.
Price	S Seat: 6,000 yen, A Seat: 5,000 yen (3rd-floor seats), Student: 4,000 yen (3rd-floor seats)
On Sale	Thursday, October 20, 2016
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Cooperated by	The Asahi Shimbun Company
Backing by	Embassy of Ireland
Production Support by	Dance West
Produced by	Plankton

Documentation 14:

Program	Traditional culture and performing arts experience program for children
Date	All year round
Venue	Schools in Tokyo
Content	Within the framework of school education, we will organize programs, combining hands-on experience with the viewing of performances in order to give children the opportunity to come into contact with Japan's traditional culture and performing arts, thereby providing them with accurate, deeper understanding of the value of Japanese culture, as well as instilling in them broader understanding of diverse forms of culture.
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Documentation 15:

Program	Traditional Performing Arts for Kids
Date	All year round
Venue	Umewaka Noh Theatre, National Theatre, etc.
Content	This long-term program aims to deepen understanding and appreciation among the younger generation toward traditional performing arts which are valued by Japan. In this program, children will receive direct instruction from leading performers of Noh, Nihon Buyo dance, Sankyoku music and Nagauta music over a period of several months. The program culminates with children giving performances with professional stage sets. There will also be classes specifically aimed for junior and senior high school students, as well as Okeiko Summer Camp, a community-based short-term program in which students can experience Okeiko (performance training) and give actual performances during summer vacation.
Organized by	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations [Geidankyo]