

Arts Council Tokyo FY2017 Program Line-Up Announced

As well as enhancing grant programs, Arts Council Tokyo will run the Tokyo Cultural Program^{*1} in the lead-up to 2020, seeking to ensure that everyone can take part in and enjoy events that utilize not only cultural facilities, but also the capital's distinctive urban districts and each community's cultural resources, such as parks and landmarks. In addition, we will implement multifaceted projects, including those focused on cultivating the personnel whose role is to link art with society and communities confronting social issues from an artistic perspective.

■ Enhancement of Grant Programs and Call for Submissions of Plans for the Cultural Program

In FY2016, we ran the Cultural Program Grant Program: Support for Projects to Foster Momentum. This program, which focused on large-scale projects organized by non-governmental organizations and companies, was designed to cultivate awareness of the Cultural Program among as wide an audience as possible and serve as the first step toward fostering a sense of excitement in the run-up to 2020. In FY2017, as well as offering Support for Projects to Foster Momentum for the second year, we will open up three new program categories: Support for Citizen-led Cultural Activities, Support for Projects Offering Visions for the Future (provisional title), and Support for Projects Introducing Foreign Cultures (provisional title). Through these grant programs, we will seek to ensure that everyone can participate in the Cultural Program, as well as endeavoring to improve Tokyo's artistic and creative environment beyond 2020.

In addition, we will issue a call for submissions to the Cultural Program, with a view to positioning these plans as the core of the Tokyo 2020 Festival (provisional title)^{*2} planned for 2020. In doing so, we will seek to incorporate innovative and creative ideas into it.

■ Tour of Japan by the Tokyo Caravan, TURN Fes To Be Joined by TURN LAND

Having attracted considerable attention in Brazil during the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo Caravan will this year pop up in various parts of Japan to promote an ongoing program of exchange that goes beyond regional boundaries. TURN is an art project that seeks to create uniquely individual encounters for people from a variety of different backgrounds and cultures. As well as holding TURN Fes 3 in August, we will launch TURN LAND (provisional title) to serve as a year-round activity hub.

■ Multifaceted Projects to Highlight the Appeal of Traditional Culture and Performing Arts to Foreign

Visitors

We will seek to highlight the appeal of Japan's traditional culture to audiences both at home and abroad, while continuing to pursue Tokyo's characteristic uniqueness and diversity. To this end, we will this year undertake short programs at Haneda Airport for the first time, in addition to those at Asakusa and Ryogoku, offering foreign visitors and others the opportunity to gain authentic first-hand experience of Japan's traditional culture and performing arts in a relaxed atmosphere. We will also organize programs that combine hands-on experience with appreciation, to provide a more in-depth understanding of Japan's traditional culture and performing arts.

*1... Tokyo Cultural Program: A four-year project from autumn 2016 implemented by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, and Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra in the run-up to 2020.

*2... Tokyo 2020 Festival (provisional title): A festival starting just before the Tokyo 2020 Games that the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee is considering about holding to mark the culmination of the Tokyo 2020 Cultural Olympiad.

For further details, please see the attached list of projects.

● Arts Council Tokyo

Arts Council Tokyo develops a variety of programs to encourage the creation and dissemination of arts and culture and to promote Tokyo as an international city of artistic and cultural attractions. In order to improve the infrastructure and environment for new artistic and cultural creation, Arts Council Tokyo plays a key role in Tokyo's cultural policies by implementing programs that explore Tokyo's originality and diversity, promoting international cultural exchange, and providing opportunities for promising young people who engage in a variety of artistic and cultural pursuits. Furthermore, Arts Council Tokyo is conducting projects that will serve as the driving force of the Cultural Program in the run-up to 2020.

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