

Japan Fair 2016 Reception

Mayor John Stokes, co-chairs Ms. Yuka Shimizu and Mr. Allen Nakamoto and members of the Japan Fair Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Katsuko Brooke, Mr. Takeshi Katsurada, Mr. Daisaku Izawa, Mr. Tomio Moriguchi, Ms. Hiroko Huntoon, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. I am honored to greet you all at this occasion.

The Eastside, including Bellevue, has a long history of celebrating Japanese culture every Autumn. Until last year, this event was called Aki Matsuri, but this year we welcome it as Japan Fair 2016. The preparation period has been short this time, but thanks to the great efforts made by members and other collaborators of the committee, the festival is successfully being held today and tomorrow. I'd like to congratulate all those involved in the Fair's organization, including members of the committee, advisory committee, and all staff members.

Bellevue is growing rapidly and attracting people of various cultural backgrounds. I am happy to be able to share Japanese culture, society and business with everyone present today. I'd like to thank the City of Bellevue, and in particular, Mayor Stokes for extending their support.

I am also very grateful to all the exhibitors, performers and volunteers for your participation. Without your dedication, this event would not be possible. I hope this 2-day event will attract a large number of people, not only from the Eastside, but all those that have come to partake in the Fair's festivities.

Lastly, I strongly hope that the friendship and partnership among Japanese and American participants will be further strengthened from this festival and onwards. I wish all the best for your activities now and in the future.

Thank you very much.