

Cherry Tree Presentation Ceremony Held at Jefferson Park to Commemorate the Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Cherry Trees from Japan to the U.S.

On Saturday, July 14th, the Jefferson Park Jubilee was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the City of Seattle's Jefferson Park and the event was enjoyed by many local citizens.



This year also marks the centennial anniversary of the “Gift of Cherry Trees” from Japan to the United States, and with support from the Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Beacon Hill Merchants Association and the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival Committee, a Cherry Tree Presentation Ceremony was held alongside *Taiko* and Japanese folk dance performances, which were designed to introduce Japanese culture at the event.



The Opening Ceremony was attended by Mayor of Seattle, Mike McGinn, Seattle City Council Member, Sally Bagshaw and other dignitaries. Mayor McGinn mentioned in his speech that 25 young cherry trees, which were planted at the park in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the “Gift of Cherry Trees” from Japan to the United States, symbolized the friendship between the two countries, and that he hoped that Jefferson Park would become famous for its beautiful cherry trees in the future.



Consul General Kiyokazu Ota congratulated Jefferson Park on its 100-year anniversary and talked about the park's historic relationship with Japanese Americans as well as the meaning of the 100th anniversary of the "Gift of Cherry Trees" from Japan to the U.S. A special plaque, which was created to mark the commemorative cherry tree planting to symbolize the centennial anniversary of the "Gift of Cherry Trees," was presented to Mayor McGinn by Consul General Ota and Mrs. Tazue Sasaki, Chair of the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival Committee.



Taiko and Japanese folk dance performances were held before and after the ceremony. At the special booth set up for the Consulate-General of Japan, the informational materials on the history of the 100th anniversary of the "Gift of Cherry Trees" from Japan to the U.S., as well as the story about the local cherry trees, were displayed.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who made the Jefferson Park Jubilee a great success.