

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE  
JANUARY 28, 2016  
CONTACT: Teresa Ono, 415-567-5505, [tono@jcccnc.org](mailto:tono@jcccnc.org)

## **JCCCNC ANNOUNCES CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND**

**San Francisco, January 28, 2016** - The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) has announced the establishment of the Cultural Heritage Fund (CHF), which will act as an endowment for the future needs of the organization.

The JCCCNC was incorporated in 1973 as a non-profit organization to preserve and promote the Japanese and Japanese American cultural heritage. Since then the Center has evolved to become one of the premier Japanese American community non-profit organizations in the United States. Today over 180,000 people of all ages and backgrounds walk through its doors on an annual basis. Every year the Center offers 80 to 100 various classes, workshops, programs, sports leagues, special events and cultural and community activities for all ages. "It's hard to imagine what Japantown would be like today without the Community Center. It is one of the few positive things that came out of the redevelopment of Nihonmachi," remarked Allen Okamoto one of the Co-Chairs of the CHF.

The dream of the JCCCNC began over 40 years ago with the goal of creating a multi-purpose cultural center that could act as a focal point for the Japanese American community. The projected \$3 million to build the Center back in 1980, would become the largest fundraising campaign in Japantown's history at that time. By the time the mortgage was finally burned in 1996 the final cost was over \$4 million. "The long-term vision of the JCCCNC was never just to raise enough money to build it, but also to maintain it and to ensure that the Center would continue to be around for future generations to come, which is why the CHF is so important for our community," commented Rumi Okabe Co-Chair of the Fund.

"The goal of the CHF is to fulfill the promise to ensure that the Center will be there for future generations, so that our Japanese and Japanese American cultural heritage will continue to thrive well into the next century," commented Paul Osaki, Executive Director

The CHF will act similar to an endowment with the principle gifts made to the Fund held in perpetuity with just the dividends and earnings for the given year used to support the operations of the Center and most importantly to help pay the maintenance, repair and replacement of capital and building needs which will run into the hundreds of thousand of dollars throughout the years.



The cost of operating the Community Center will continue to go up in time and the further we get away from our core founding donors (Nisei generation) the more difficult it will become to raise the funds for capital projects down the line. The CHF will ensure that we can meet those needs generation after generation. It's not just an investment in the Center, it's an investment in our community and for our children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

"Japantown's future is full of uncertainties. Many of the Japanese American businesses may close and properties sold, but one thing is for sure, that the JCCCNC will be around forever if we are successful with the CHF campaign," says Co-Chair Robert Sakai, former owner of Uoki K. Sakai.

Co-Chairing the Cultural Heritage Fund campaign are Rumi Okabe, Allen Okamoto and Robert Sakai.

The JCCCNC Cultural Heritage Fund is a professionally managed fund by the Marin Community Foundation (MCF), based in Novato, California. The MCF, which manages over \$1.6 billion in total assets, selects top-rated non-profit organizations in Northern California to help them establish and manage an endowment fund after a stringent review process of their mission statement, financial accountability, organizational management and community need.

The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in the State of California. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable by law: Tax ID #94-2560179. For more information about the Cultural Heritage Fund and the many ways to donate, please contact Teresa Ono at 415-567-5505 or [tono@jcccnc.org](mailto:tono@jcccnc.org).