



Artists for Japan | Seattle, WA USA | <http://artistsforjapan.blogspot.com>

Mission

Artists for Japan was formed by a group of artists and community members in Seattle, Washington, USA in response to the tragic earthquake and tsunami disaster on March 11, 2011. As a volunteer based organization, our mission is to help support Japan through the recovery and relief efforts in collaboration with local and Japan based organizations.

What We Do

We organize and host various events and projects that provide opportunities for people and community to gather and engage in activities that help support Japan. Through these activities, we may raise funds for charitable donations to various organizations.

Fundraising Efforts To Date

Total amount raised as of November 17, 2011: \$100,152.14

Raised Funds Donated To

American Red Cross Japan Relief www.redcross.org

American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters. Donated funds were sent particularly for Japan Relief that provides emergency assistance for Tohoku.

Ashinaga Foundation www.ashinaga.org

Ashinaga Foundation provides educational and emotional support for orphans worldwide, and since 3.11.11, has been providing emergency relief grants to children who lost parents/guardians or whose parents/guardians suffered serious disabilities in the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

Tsunagari Nukumori Project www.tsunagari-nukumori.jp

Tsunagari Nukumori Project provides electricity, hot water, and hot baths powered by renewable energy, such as solar power, solar heat hot water system, biomass energy to the disaster-affected areas in Tohoku.

What We Have Accomplished

Artists for Japan Art Sale

March 26 & 27, 2011



This was our inaugural event that took place at KOBO at Higo in the heart of historical Japan town. A number of Seattle artists with connections to Japan had the same idea at the same time - What can we do to aid recovery efforts from the devastation of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami? The greatest asset we had was to contribute our work, and with community support, we converted that artwork into the most versatile asset: money to support relief efforts. Over 600 artworks were donated by 193 artists, and all of the hard costs and labor were also donated.

Through this two-day event, we raised \$94,088.70 including the generous matching fund of \$10,000 by the Murakami family. The raised funds were donated to American Red Cross Japan Relief.

Prayer Flags of HOPE Workshop & Art Sale

April 17, 2011



80 Prayer Flags of HOPE were individually designed by the students of Issaquah Valley Elementary School, the community members in Seattle, and Artists for Japan collective as a symbol of our love and support for the people in Tohoku, Japan and as a reminder that they are not alone.

We raised \$187 through the event and Art Sale, and it was donated to Ashinaga Foundation.

Delivery of Flags to Fukushima Evacuation Shelter

May 9, 2011



Coordinated with the Japan Red Cross, the Prayer Flags of HOPE were delivered in person by one of the Artists for Japan's committee members to the children and families living at the Fukushima Evacuation Shelter. Another set of Prayer Flags was delivered to Artists for Japan's relatives living in Sendai, Japan.

Tanabata STAR of HOPE Project & Art Sale

June 18, 2011



Artists for Japan created a very special Tanabata STAR sculpture of HOPE, to deliver our message of hope to the displaced children at Yuriage Primary School in Miyagi, Japan. The sculpture was filled with candy and over 250 "colorful star wishes" designed by the middle school children in Seattle, Artists for Japan friends, and the community members.

The aunt and uncle of an Artist for Japan artist who live in Sendai served as our coordinators and delivered the Tanabata STAR sculpture to the children at Yuriage Primary School as a token of our love and support from Seattle.

We raised \$1,155.95 through the event and Art Sale, which was donated to Ashinaga Foundation. An additional \$300 was donated by the community member to support defraying the shipping cost.

Himawari Project & Art Sale

July 16, 2011



Did you know that the sunflower (himawari) has the ability to absorb radioactive cesium from soil and neutralize its effects, and that extracted oil from the seeds can be converted to biodiesel fuel?

Himawari Project is to distribute sunflower seeds to create healing lands in nuclear contaminated regions, and to establish ongoing discussions on green energy.

On July 16, 2011, we distributed approximately 400 organic Mammoth sunflower seeds to 80 individuals or families, and raised \$1031.16 through the event and Art Sale. \$100 of the total raised was contributed to the Himawari Project budget and the remaining \$931.16 was donated to Tsunagari Nukumori Project.

Himawari Project is an on-going project, and on October 1, 2011, with the generous support by Magnuson Community Garden in Seattle, we harvested sunflower seeds with the community gardeners and children, and the dried seeds to be sent to Tohoku in Japan for possible future planting.

Senninbari Exhibit & Art Sale

September 17 – October 9, 2011



A group of Japanese artists and American artists of Japanese descent exhibited artworks with the theme “Sen-nin-bari”, one thousand stitches.

During World War II, both Japanese women in Japan and Japanese Americans in the U.S. made amulets called Senninbari for the soldiers who left their homes and families to fight in the war. Women and community members gathered, and created amulets for each soldier with one thousand stitches using red thread on a special cloth, which were given to the soldiers for their protection and for their safe return home.

The “Senninbari” is a symbol of those thoughts and prayers, and is a focal point for this exhibition. As Japan begins their long journey in rebuilding the country, they continue to be in the hearts and prayers of so many.

We raised \$335 through the exhibit at KOBO, and it was donated to Ashinaga Foundation.

Japan Town Tour & Social Event with Japanese Delegates

January 16, 2012



Artists for Japan and community friends hosted 9 Japanese young leaders of NPO's making a critical difference in Japan's recovery, who were invited to come to Seattle for a two-week training organized by iLEAP.

We coordinated the Japan Town tour of historic Panama Hotel, Interlm Garden, and Maynard Green Street Project for the delegates, and later gathered at KOBO for Artists for Japan presentation and a casual potluck dinner. We had much to share and learn from each other, and some inspiring discussions have started among us for a possible partnership for Japan relief and rebuilding efforts.

Upcoming

Candlelight Vigil: One-Year Anniversary Prayer

March 10, 2012

As it will be the one-year anniversary on March 11, 2012, we will hold a memorial event to honor and pay tribute to victims and survivors of the 3.11.11 earthquake, tsunami disaster, and aftermath. It is for people to gather and share our thoughts for Japan, to remember the tragedy, and to work together for our long journey ahead to rebuild the country.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake hit at 2:46pm on March 11, 2011 in Japan, which was 8:46pm on March 10th in Seattle time. We will gather on March 10, 2012 to conduct a silent prayer with candlelight at the time of the quake at 8:46pm on the northwest shore, as the Pacific Ocean connects us to Japan. This event is open to the public and everybody is welcome to join.

Artists for Japan and our community members continue to support Japan relief for the coming years, and some future events are in planning. More to come!

Committee Members



Binko Chiong-Bisbee was born in Tokyo where her family had lived for eighteen years. She came to Seattle at age six, went to University of Washington, later to New York for a Master's degree in Urban Planning. She moved to Tokyo in 1988 with her husband, John, who worked as an architect at a Japanese firm for five years. After returning to Seattle, they established KOBO in 1995, a space for promoting contemporary art & design and traditional Japanese craftsmanship, and a place for building community. Binko loves to travel, enjoys her job where she learns something new each day, and being a mom. www.koboseattle.com



Sean Frego grew up in the Santa Cruz mountains. He relocated to Seattle, where he met his wife Junko Yamamoto. Sean has since traveled the world shooting photos and video, and performing live for non-profit, corporate and government clients. When not working, you can find him with Junko; traveling, taking pictures of noodle soup or eating Nabe with friends at home. www.seanfrego.com



Linda Megumi Ando is a Japanese American "sansei" born in California and works as a counselor with the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity at the University of Washington. Her passion is working with diverse & indigenous communities, coordinating community arts, social justice & empowerment programs, traveling, cooking and LIFE! She grew up with a deep appreciation for Japanese art, culture and traditions, studied at Waseda University in Tokyo for one year as an exchange student.



Junko Yamamoto was born and raised in Tokyo and moved to Seattle on her own at the age of sixteen to study abroad. She graduated from Cornish College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and her work has been shown around the world. She loves to connect with people through her art. She and her husband Sean Frego love to travel and have NABE (hot pot party) with their friends.

www.junkoyamamoto.com



Etsuko Ichikawa was born in Tokyo, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tokyo Zokei University, and moved to Seattle in 1993 to advance her study with glass art. After working for Dale Chihuly, America's first National Living Treasure, she became a self-employed artist in 2003. She has exhibited her work worldwide, and her work has been included in the important collections. Etsuko enjoys her life in Seattle with her husband Mike, and has a passion for cooking and for arts in all different forms.

www.etsukoichikawa.com



Yuko Kunugi was raised in Kanagawa and received a Bachelor of Architecture from Japan Womens University in Tokyo. Seeking challenging opportunities in architecture design, she moved to Seattle in 2000. She has worked on numerous public and private projects with a strong focus on people-gathering spaces. She lives in north Seattle with her husband Fred and a basset hound, Easy Rider. Yuko enjoys spending her time being with friends and family, woodworking and camping.



Naoko Nibu-Butler was born in Oita, Japan and received a B.A., in English Literature from Kita Kyushu University. After eleven years working in the travel industry in Sydney, Australia, she married in 2000 and moved to Seattle with her husband, Anthony. She now works for KOBO, where she is having fun being surrounded by Japanese and local artists' fine arts and crafts. She loves nature and enjoys cooking and meeting friends.

Founding Members

Binko Chiong-Bisbee
Etsuko Ichikawa
Elizabeth Jameson
Tommer Peterson
Sean Frego
Junko Yamamoto



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Affiliated Organizations and Supporters

Allied Arts Foundation www.alliedarts-foundation.org

Wing Luke Museum www.wingluke.org

iLEAP www.ileap.org

InterIm CDA www.interimicda.org

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