



PRESS RELEASE

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78TH ANNUAL LA NISEI WEEK JAPANESE FESTIVAL AUGUST 11-19

(Los Angeles – June 28, 2018) – Enjoyed by thousands every summer, come join the downtown Los Angeles community at the 78th Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. One of the nation's longest running ethnic festivals of its kind, the events will take place August 11-19. The theme for this year's Festival is "Generations," which pays tribute to the legacies of multiple generations and calls for all to stand together and ensure the success and spirit of the community we call Little Tokyo. The Festival showcases free Japanese cultural events, activities and exhibits, including music and entertainment, food, and fun spanning two weekends.

First Weekend – August 11-12

The 12th annual free Tanabata Festival (August 11-12) will color Little Tokyo's Central Avenue and Museum of Contemporary Art (Geffen) between Temple and First streets with large, assorted streamers (kazari). Individuals, families, community groups, businesses, churches, temples, and others have contributed their one of a kind displays. Plenty of entertainment such as Taiko, Geta Tap, martial arts exhibitions, and activities will be available for the entire family at the Plaza Festival held at the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center (JACCC), Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, free cultural exhibits such as bonsai, calligraphy, Ikebana, and more will be on display. Don't forget to stay for Nisei Week Sunset on the Plaza night event for pop-up food vendors, entertainment, and more.

On Sunday, August 12, come join Aki the Akita and friends at Aki's Pup Up Party, where there will be shopping, food, and fun for pups of all ages and sizes. Routed through the streets of Little Tokyo, the Grand Parade will begin at 4 p.m. The parade will include Japanese traditional dancers, led by 2018 Nisei Week Choreographer, Madame Fujima Kansuma, Japanese taiko drums, Haneto dancers preceded by a Nebuta float, and special guests and honorees including Grand Marshal Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Vincent Okamoto; and Parade Marshal actor and comedian Aaron Takahashi.

Second Weekend – August 18-19

The second weekend continues with more free exhibits and cultural events at the JACCC. On August 18, come watch the 12th Annual Day-Lee Foods World Gyoza Eating Championship, where competitive eating greats such as hot dog-eating champion Joey Chestnut and YouTube sensation Matt Stonie have competed. Will Chestnut be back to try to break his record of 384 Gyoza eaten in 10 minutes? The Gyoza championship will be taking place on stage at the JACCC.

To close another year of Nisei Week, Ondo street dancing will be held on August 19 at 4 p.m. on Little Tokyo's First Street. The public is encouraged to join in this Japanese street dancing ritual. Nisei Week activities will be held in various locations throughout Little Tokyo, including the JACCC at 244 S. San Pedro Street.



NISEI WEEK™
Foundation

For parking, please visit the Nisei Week website. Both weekends feature live entertainment, food and fun for the entire family. Take part and experience one of LA's premier summer cultural events. For further information, visit www.NiseiWeek.org, call the Nisei Week office at [213-687-7183](tel:213-687-7183) or email info@niseiweek.org

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