



**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***  
April 3, 2020

Contact: Alison Kochiyama, (310) 324-6611, [info@jci-gardena.org](mailto:info@jci-gardena.org)

**EVENT NAME: 2020 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser Cancelled**

**LOCATION: Gardena Valley JCI, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247**

Dear Friends,

In response to the growing concerns regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) has gone through an in depth review of the 2020 Matsuri and the Coronavirus. The GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser has been a South Bay tradition for over 60 years, bringing all ages of the community together, including many generations of families, for a fun-filled, family-friendly weekend celebrating the Nikkei culture. GVJCI is deeply grateful for the support the community gives each year.

It is with a heavy heart that we have decided to cancel the 2020 GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser in June. The health and safety of our community is our priority, and there are numerous factors unknown to us in the midst of our event planning.

The GVJCI closed our facility on March 19th and is following the safety instructions of the Center for Disease Control, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and City of Gardena. The GVJCI is committed to protecting the health of its visitors, volunteers, member organizations, and staff.

We are still committed to carrying out our mission: "A space to engage, share, and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture" even if it is in new and unexpected ways! We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and to sign up for our emails through [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org) to stay up to date with the latest information from us. **And please visit our website frequently** <https://www.jci-gardena.org/> for updates.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon!

With Deepest Gratitude,

**Alison Kochiyama**  
**Executive Director**



### **ABOUT THE GVJCI:**

From all of us at the GVJCI, we thank you for the support you give us throughout the year. We could not do all that we do without you. We were built by the community, and we are sustained by the community. In our busiest months, 3,000 people come to the GVJCI for classes, workshops, meetings, services, activities, and holiday parties. We are so grateful for all those who utilize our facilities and services, participate in our programs, and keep the GVJCI an active community center.

We were formally incorporated in 1967, but our roots in the South Bay trace back over 100 years ago through our Japanese Language School's legacy. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Nikkei and broader community of the South Bay through educational, cultural, social, and recreational programs. We need your support to make these programs possible and keep our facilities in good operating condition.

**CONTACT:** Alison Kochiyama at [info@jci-gardena.org](mailto:info@jci-gardena.org) or 310-324-6611

### **Our Mission**

A space to engage, share, and embrace the Nikkei experience and culture.

### **Our Vision**

The GVJCI envisions a vibrant network and a welcoming space for all persons interested in Japanese heritage and culture where history and tradition are honored, people are inspired to create action and change, and cultural pride and respect for all humanity are promoted.

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, Federal Taxpayer ID: 95-6197597.

**Website:** [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org)

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