

## 2016 Annual General Meeting: Japanese Hall General Manager's Report

The inaugural year of the position of Japanese Hall General Manager in 2015-16 saw much attention placed on the necessary facility maintenance and capital repairs, with an overall focus on long-term building maintenance, security improvements and future upgrades.

Outstanding projects such as the City of Vancouver funded fence fortification plan was successfully finished over the summer, along with the LED light upgrades in the Japanese Hall and exit sign replacements – both energy saving projects supported by BC Hydro. A new HVAC system in the Toddler Program Room was installed, and overdue window repairs throughout the 487 Alexander building were completed. The successful application for the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Capital Grant allowed for matching funds of \$28,700 from the City of Vancouver for a surveillance system upgrade in-process and to be completed before the end of 2016.

Facility rental revenues saw a healthy increase of 20% compared to 2014-15 figures, with comparable income generated from both community-based and film industry rentals, a target which is forecasted to be surpassed in 2016-17. Energy has also been placed into securing long-term rentals for a reliable stream of rental income. The added position of On-Call Facility Rental Staff has also made for more consistent operating hours for regular staff while creating new part-time employment.

As an outreach role in tandem with the Community Relations Committee, the position has been consistently meeting with Nikkei organizations such as the Powell Street Festival Society Advocacy & Outreach Committee, the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, and the Vancouver Buddhist Temple in relationship building through discussion, and partner events such as public sumo workshops and the Annual Vancouver Asahi Baseball Tribute Game. Meetings and updates from community organizations such as the DTES Market and the Community Economic Development Strategic Action Committee has also ensured that VJLS-JH remains involved and up-to-date on the issues related to the changing landscape of the DTES.

Lastly, a BIG thank you to all of the members, volunteers, staff and board for your ongoing support throughout 2015-16.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Momoko Ito  
Japanese Hall General Manager, VJLS-JH