



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

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JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER ANNOUNCES LESLIE A. ITO'S RESIGNATION AS PRESIDENT & CEO

LOS ANGELES – The Japanese American Cultural & Community Center is announcing the resignation of Leslie A. Ito as president & CEO. After five and a half years of leading JACCC, Leslie will be stepping down at the end of July and joining the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena as their new executive director.

During her tenure at JACCC, Leslie helped shape and rebuild the organization, including balancing the budget, strengthening relationships and ties with Japan, and developing a robust strategic plan that will continue to help guide and shape the future direction of JACCC. In addition, the Aratani Theatre was renewed and upgraded with lighting, sound and digital projection systems, a new roof, and air conditioning system.

“We’re incredibly grateful to Leslie for all she has accomplished and brought to the organization,” said JACCC Board Chair, Craig Tomiyoshi. “She has helped bring a breath of fresh air and excitement to the organization, and we wish her the best as she brings her creativity to the arts and culture community in her hometown, Pasadena.”

In the coming weeks, JACCC will be announcing a national search for a new president and CEO, as well as an interim director. JACCC’s Board of Directors will remain focused on continuing and building upon the incredible momentum that Leslie and the staff have built, and are excited about the future of JACCC, including the launch of the Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center.

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About Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC)

Founded in 1971, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States. A hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture and a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires—JACCC connects traditional and contemporary; community participants and creative professionals; Southern California and the world beyond. JACCC also provides office space in its five-story complex to a wide variety of nonprofit cultural, educational, and community-based organizations in Los Angeles.