

Advantages of Relationships with Japanese Organizations
Japanese Consulate Offices
Japan Business Society

The Detroit Ikebana International chapter has aligned themselves with the Japan Business Society of Detroit (JBSD) and the Japan Consulate office in Detroit.

For the yearly Japan Festival and Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) the Detroit chapter provides a display of 8-10 Ikebana arrangements. These days most people just take a picture with their phone camera, so it has become more economical not to provide pamphlets but to provide a large tent card suitable to photograph containing the pertinent information (organization name, web URL and email address). Thus saving money on business cards and/or pamphlets. When the chapter provides a display, the JBSD gives the chapter an honorarium (\$150 - \$200). This generally covers the cost of the flowers for those making the arrangements.

At this year's Hinamatsuri at the Detroit Institute of Arts the chapter held two "Make It & Take It" classes for the public. These were free of charge and limited to 25 participants. All ages were welcome. The JBSD paid for all of the supplies and materials. Depending on how a chapter would organize a "Make It & Take It" event, there is a good possibility of this activity leading to new members or at least to members interested in taking lessons which could lead to chapter membership or to increased attendance at an event open to the public (special luncheons, exhibits etc.)

The Consul General of Japan in Detroit has been very supportive of the chapter in different ways. They hold a reception for the Emperor's birthday each year. The chapter provides arrangements for this event to decorate the residence. The Consul General covers the cost of the flowers (the residence has their own containers and kenzans). They also pay an honorarium for this, which can go directly to the chapter treasury to help underwrite a luncheon demonstrator or out of town travelling teacher.

The Consul General has also helped the chapter through their PR agent to secure two short segments on the local TV news stations. This is a great opportunity to show a few arrangements and speak about the organization. These are very short (about 5 minutes) segments, but they get a lot of viewers. Those viewers can often lead to members!

The JBSD Foundation has awarded grants to local schools and non-profit organizations since it was established in 1992. The JBSD Foundation has put its emphasis on non-profit entities in the Greater Detroit community which are committed to one or more of the Foundation's objectives:

1. Community Enhancement - activities, which promote the enhancement of life within those communities in which JBSD members reside.
2. Education & Research - activities related to the education of the community within which JBSD members reside. Emphasis is placed on supporting activities and programs of local schools, which offer opportunities for the students to study abroad in Japan, introducing Japanese culture & promoting cultural understanding, educational activities enhancing the study of Japanese, and programs by which Japanese children receive assistance in adapting to English-based education.

3. US & Japan Relations - activities that promote a better mutual understanding of Japanese and American cultures. (this one is very pertinent to Ikebana International chapters)!

The Detroit Ikebana chapter has received generous grants over the last several years. They have been applied to expenses for their annual public event where they host a professor of Ikebana for a demonstration.

If your chapter has experience with Japanese Consulate Officers or Japan Business Society offices, please write up a short description of your chapters' experience with these organizations and send the report via email to your Regional Advocate and to the NCAR Communications Chair, Stephanie English at narikebana@gmail.com. We would love to publicize and promote this advantage to all chapters in the North & Central American Region