



Agenda

Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 3:00 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 969 4359 4973 Password: 403783

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 3:00 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2024

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS

- A. Staff Liaison Report

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Planning Expenditures through December 2025
 - Review of Recommendations Submitted from the Public
 - Review of Budget Expenditures to date
- B. Support for the Establishment of a Sister City Non-Profit Organization Separate from the City
- C. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



MEMORANDUM

Establishing Sister City 40 Anniversary Task Force Timeline of Events

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force
Date: May 22, 2024
From: Lori Pond, Staff Liaison

Topics for Discussion:

Plan to be implemented by Task Force:

1. Timeline for Celebration
2. Frequency of Celebration Events/Items – how often
 - a. 1 per quarter
 - b. 1 per month
 - c. # of specified events
3. Outline a Plan for the upcoming year.
4. Volunteers for each – who will own each item.

Recommendation: Set a timeline or framework for events projects the Task Force will vote on and budget for. Consider what funds we have, what volunteers and capacity we have, and implement strategies to follow through with the plans. The Liaison's recommendation is to plan for 1 event/project per quarter (3rd qtr is July, Aug, Sept, and 4th qtr is Oct, Nov, Dec, etc...) Select volunteers who will own that event/project. Staff Liaison will assist with budget items.

Pricing Quotes:

1. Banners – Cost from previous order \$3,727.00 from Graphic Works Inc., in Anchorage. **We will only need 26 for this project.**

Light Pole Banners - 18oz block out vinyl banner material - printed graphics

Qty 32 - 30.5" x 100.5"

Double sided

3.5" top and bottom pole pockets

Left side grommets

Used the City's account with Carlile to truck them from Anchorage to Homer. **Cost to be determined.**

- a. Deadline has been requested to be moved up by Econ Development and Parks to end of June.
- b. Status – quote and specs for graphic designer, photos needed and selection to be made.
2. Friendship Post – pending – Lori Pond to schedule meeting with Northern Impressions to obtain quote.
 - a. What options would the Task Force like to see quoted?
 - b. Pictures of Post included in supplemental packet.

Ideas recommended from outside Task Force:

1. Friendship Post
 - a. Design with both languages on each side, logos, dates of sister city relationship, plaque on the ground describing history of relationship and significance.
2. Volunteer Celebration to thank all those who have helped plan events so far this year.
 - a. Possibly another Volunteer Celebration at the end of 2025.

Items for Supplemental Packet:

1. Current Budget Spreadsheet
2. Pictures of current Post
3. Newspaper articles – Homer News
4. Japan-Alaska Sister City Town Pride Festa – Winners to Note:
 - a. Teshio 1st, Japanese Club 3rd, Kevin Co Special Award for Peace Tree.

HOMER NEWS

NEWS

Council authorizes sister city celebration task force

Deadline to apply is March 25

By [Delcenia Cosman](#) • March 20, 2024 1:30 am

Tags: [Homer](#), [Homer City Council](#), [Japan](#), [Local News](#)



West Homer Elementary School Japanese Club instructor Megumi Beams (center), walking with the Alaska Japanese Club float, carries a cardboard Taiko drum and waves to the crowd at the 70th annual Homer Winter Carnival Parade on Pioneer Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

There may not be a visiting delegation from Teshio, Homer's sister city in Japan, this year, but that isn't stopping the planning for a 40th anniversary celebration from going full steam ahead.

The Homer City Council passed Resolution 24-029 at their last regular meeting on March 11, authorizing the creation of a formal task force to manage the city's celebration plans.

The task force follows the work of a sister city working group that was formed in August 2023 and has "diligently developed plans for the celebration, including events, exhibits and programs," the resolution states. However, the city felt it necessary to "create a formal task force to clearly distinguish between celebrations sponsored by the City of Homer and privately-supported events, and to manage the City's celebrations without impeding the ability of other groups to develop and promote events of their own."

The task force was also created following the passing of Ordinance 24-11(A) on Feb. 12, which appropriated \$20,000 from the city's General CARMA fund for anniversary celebration events, exhibits and programs.

"The city government decided that once public money started being involved, that (planning) should be put on a more formal footing, so that's what the task force is created for," Homer Public Library Director Dave Berry told Homer News Friday. Berry was also formerly the sister city working group's co-chair.

The task force will consist of five members of the general public, with Lori Pond, assistant to the city manger, acting as the city staff liaison, according to Berry.

Applications for the task force must be submitted to the city clerk's office by March 25. Task force members will be nominated by the mayor and approved by the city council at the regular meeting scheduled for April 8.

The task force's duties include, according to the resolution, fostering close relations and collaborating with Teshio on planning joint activities, planning and organizing anniversary celebration events, advising the council on expenditure of city funds allocated for the celebration, and coordinating community engagement by actively conducting public outreach and recruiting volunteers.

"Anybody who's interested in volunteering or offering their expertise should definitely get in touch with the task force," Berry said. "You don't have to be a member of the task force to participate in the celebrations or to help out."

Ad 1 of 1 (8/27)



Currently, the city is planning the majority of celebrations for 2024, with the possibility of a delegation exchange in 2025.

From the beginning of May through early September, the Pratt Museum will host an exhibit of the artwork that Teshio has donated to the City of Homer over the years, Berry told Homer News. The city is also looking into coordinating a traditional taiko drumming demonstration with professional performance group Tomodachi Daiko from Anchorage. Further information about the group can be found at tomodachidaiko.org/.

"We might bring them down for a performance in May, if all goes well," Berry said.

Additionally, the city plans to put up banners highlighting Teshio on the lampposts along Pioneer Avenue and refurbish the Friendship Post that formerly stood in WKFL Park.

"(The post) said 'peace and friendship' in four languages on each of the four sides," Berry said. "We're going to refurbish that and hopefully get that set up again."

The task force will remain in effect until its mission is complete as defined, or until Dec. 31, 2025, according to Resolution 24-029. The 2025 cut-off date is meant to coincide with a possible delegation visit next year.

"Planning for a delegation would be one of (the task force's) big activities, and once they have that completed and finished their mission, the task force would wrap up," Berry said.

The resolution and supplemental materials are available in full at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citycouncil/city-council-regular-meeting-311. Resolution 24-029 was passed as part of the consent agenda at the March 11 regular council meeting; no discussion was held on the resolution.

Tags: [Homer](#), [Homer City Council](#), [Japan](#), [Local News](#)

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[Fresh Start: The Grönroos Family Story — Part 1](#)

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OPINION

Point of View: Sister cities create strong human connections*By Megumi Beams • May 16, 2024 1:30 am*Tags: [Point of View](#)

West Homer Elementary School Japanese Club instructor Megumi Beams (center), walking with the Alaska Japanese Club float, carries a cardboard Taiko drum and waves to the crowd at the 70th annual Homer Winter Carnival Parade on Pioneer Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

Thank you for participating in the workshop for building Japanese Taiko Drums at Kachemak Bay Campus and watching three different performances from Tomodachi Daiko Inc. in Anchorage with Alaska Japanese Club for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

I appreciate that Tina Seaton, who manages our district of Girl Scouts of Alaska, had contacted the council in Anchorage for permission to contribute Girl Scout Cookies to the 40th Anniversary Celebration the weekend of May 3 and 4.

Another big thank you to Alice's Champagne Palace for their contribution to the celebration at Homer Mariner Theater.

Homer United Methodist Church shared the upper parking space closest to SVT.

We also appreciate the City of Homer hosting and advertising the 40th Anniversary celebration with Alaska Japanese Club, Dave Berry and Lori Pond for coordinating with council members and Alaska Japanese Club; Mike Illg for the Homer Mariner theater; Jesse Bolt for a theater technician; Jill Burnham for coordinating with us; Gareth Chesley for an IT at the college; Kachemak Bay Campus for hosting the workshop; Dick Dunn, Gary Lyons, Mike Ostrom and Mark Conrad for making the stands for the taiko drums; Dave Berry, Lori Pond, Cathy Stingley, Charles Anderson, Marge Dunn, Tim Gervais, David Beams, Bob Neubauer, Wes Schraht, Kelly Smith, Anna Rodriguez, Maura Jones, Vanessa Albertson, Althea Romana, Emma Bowman, Lisa Magnuson, Kalynn Wilson, Robby Wilson, Elayna Wilson, Rei Beams, Sei Beams, Finn Newer, Kayla Abbott, Sage Brothers, Lenore Jones, Willow Hartson, Emily Abbott and Autumn Smith, and Margaret Gervais for volunteering and participating for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

We also would like to say thank you to Flat Fish Lodge for graciously hosting 11 professional Taiko drummers for two nights and Pika Pika Bento for serving amazing catered food for them. Three other performers, Mrs. and Mr. Kono who are presidents of Tomodachi Daiko Inc., and Mr. Furuta, a master Taiko drummer from Tokyo, Japan, stayed with us for two nights. Alaska Japanese Club purchased the materials for making the stands for Taiko drums for the workshop.

A big thank you to Tomodachi Daiko Inc., for performing with us, and Frank Jeffries, who is a retired University of Alaska Anchorage professor, and his wife, Jacki Holzman, who is a retired FAA supervisor, who purchased all materials to build six Japanese Taiko drums for the workshop at the college. They donated those homemade Japanese Taiko drums to our Alaska Japanese Club in Homer to keep drumming to show our appreciation to our supportive community. We appreciate their generosity and kindness.

We are very excited to share great news with you: Frank Jeffries and Jacki Holzman will be back to Homer for the second workshop with us to finish building two more Taiko drums. This wonderful workshop will be held at Homer United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 17. This event will be potluck style. Please bring a dish or drink to share during the workshop while you are enjoying visiting.

Mr. Frank and Mrs. Jacki will also give us another great opportunity to learn, hear and play new methods with Japanese Taiko drums on Saturday, May 18 at Homer United Methodist Church. This is a great chance to learn and play Japanese Taiko drums with them. Anybody of any age is invited!!

As I am a liaison and an interpreter of the sister city, the City of Homer and Alaska Japanese Club have established a great relationship with our sister city, Teshio in Hokkaido in Japan. We just started to celebrate the 40th Anniversary acknowledging the relationship between two cities this year. Teshio really appreciates that we have been celebrating the 40th Anniversary.

Teshio is very interested in having a student delegation coming from Homer next year. Teshio will send us lots of homemade chopstick holders to use as a fundraiser for having students from Homer visit Teshio to exchange culture, languages and help young generations become global citizens to support our communities, our societies and our countries. Students in Alaska Japanese Club have been having wonderful experiences learning differences and similarities through our sister city relationship. Our Alaska Japanese Club has been having online class sessions and having exchange cards activities with Teshio Junior High School.

This time, Teshio requested us to make 70 chopsticks holders. Students in Alaska Japanese Club made them for having an exchange activity to show our appreciation for our relationship. Teshio is very excited that they will share those chopstick holders from us with Teshio Junior High School, Mayor Yoshida, Teshio council members and town employees.

Another exciting announcement is that Charles Anderson was a former exchange student to Teshio. He and his friends will visit Teshio this fall! I have been coordinating with Teshio for their trip as well as I did also for Cathy Stingley's spring trip to Teshio. Teshio is very excited to have another visitor from Homer because it means developing more great relationships between the cities. We appreciate that Charles Anderson will mail those chopstick holders to Teshio before his trip to Teshio.

The former mayor and the new mayor of Teshio have been writing letters to communicate with each other with Mayor Ken Castner in order to have a stronger sister city relationship along with these exchange activities. I recently received a letter from Mayor Yoshida in Teshio to Mayor Ken Castner. I will give it to him with my translation.

I think that those amazing interactions will make human connections stronger and closer to understand each other. I am strongly hoping that new generations will also have an amazing opportunity as student delegations in both cities to carry on this wonderful sister city program in another 40th years.

Megumi Beams is the Sister City liaison/interpreter and Japanese International Exchange coordinator/instructor in Homer.

Tags: [Point of View](#)

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[‘Embrace the challenges and adventures that await’](#)

Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

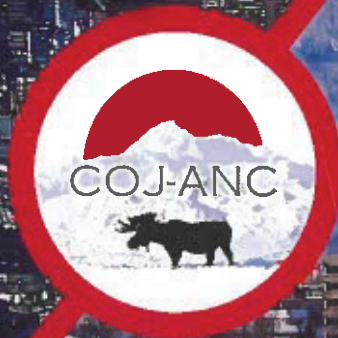
Presents

Japan-Alaska Sister City Town Pride Festa

日本・アラスカ姉妹都市プライドフェスタ

**Theme: Works by citizens and organizations
of the Japan-Alaska, that emphasize
'town pride'**

テーマ:「まちの誇り」を重視する日
・アラスカの市民・団体の作品



October 2023-January 2024

2023年10月-2024年1月

1月26日、在アンカレジ領事事務所はオンラインにて「日アラスカ姉妹都市・お国自慢フェスタ（発表・審査会）」を実施しました。

本件行事は日本とアラスカとの経済交流や観光を促進する目的で実施され、「日本またはアラスカの市民や団体が制作した、自分の住む町の商店街や観光名所、伝統芸能、文化などの『お国自慢』を紹介する作品」を募集しました。26日に開催された本件行事には37名の日アラスカ姉妹都市市民が出席し、2時間半にわたり24作品の「お国自慢」発表が行われました。

後日、6名の審査員による厳正な審査の結果、以下の作品が第1位から第3位に選ばれました。

Campaign Winners

1st Place: Noguchi of Teshio Town





1st place: Hiroyasu Noguchi, Teshio Town Local Vitalization Cooperator, in collaboration with the Teshio Seijo Haiku Club, Michiyo Ueda and Ryo Ueda

Title: "Haiku: Depicting the Rich Nature of Teshio"

This video introduces the activities of the Haiku Club, which was started by Teshio Town residents in the 1960s and continues to meet once a month, and how the beautiful nature of Teshio Town is delicately depicted using the words "kigo" that express the seasons.

(以下では敬称を略させて頂きました。悪しからず御了承下さい。)

第1位: 天塩町有志 (手塩青女俳句会、上田美千代、上田亮)、

天塩町地域おこし協力隊 (野口裕康)

作品: 「俳句: 天塩町の豊かな自然を描いて」

1960年代に天塩町民により発足し月1回の活動を続けている俳句同好会の活動や、季節を表現する単語「季語」で天塩町の美しい自然を繊細に描く様子を紹介する動画。

Hiroyasu Noguchi used the below words to describe their project:

天塩町は、北海道の北部に位置する、漁業と酪農の人口約2,800人の町です。日本で4番目に長い川「天塩川」の河口部に位置し、夏にはハマナス (Japanese rose) やエゾカンゾウなどの美しい花が咲き、オジロワシ (White-tailed eagle) などの天然記念物で稀少な野鳥、綺麗な夕日を見ることができます。

1984年から、アラスカ州ホーマー市と姉妹都市友好提携を結んでいて、これまで交流活動を活発に行っていました。

天塩町では、町民により様々な文化的な活動が活発に行われており、今回は、1960年代に発足した町民による俳句愛好会を紹介します。1ヶ月に1回、「句会」を開催し、会員メンバーが、思案し持ち寄って作った俳句に対して意見交換を行います。「俳句」は世界で最も短い詩 (歌) として知られており、わずか17文字で心情や情景を詠います。その歴史は古く、8世紀、平安時代の和歌が起源であるとされています。基本的なルールは5・7・5のリズムを詠むことと、季語を含めることです。「季語」とは、その名のとおり季節を表現する単語のことですが、この季語が季節だけでなく情景や人情を表すことで限られた文字数でも繊細な表現を表現することができます。

This is a video of the Palmer-Saroma Town sister city exchange, which depicts how 10 students and 2 teachers from Palmer Junior High School and Palmer High School in Palmer City enjoyed a visit to Saroma Town, Hokkaido, in June 2023 and stayed at home for 18 days, and other stories of exchange.

The video can be accessed at the following web address.

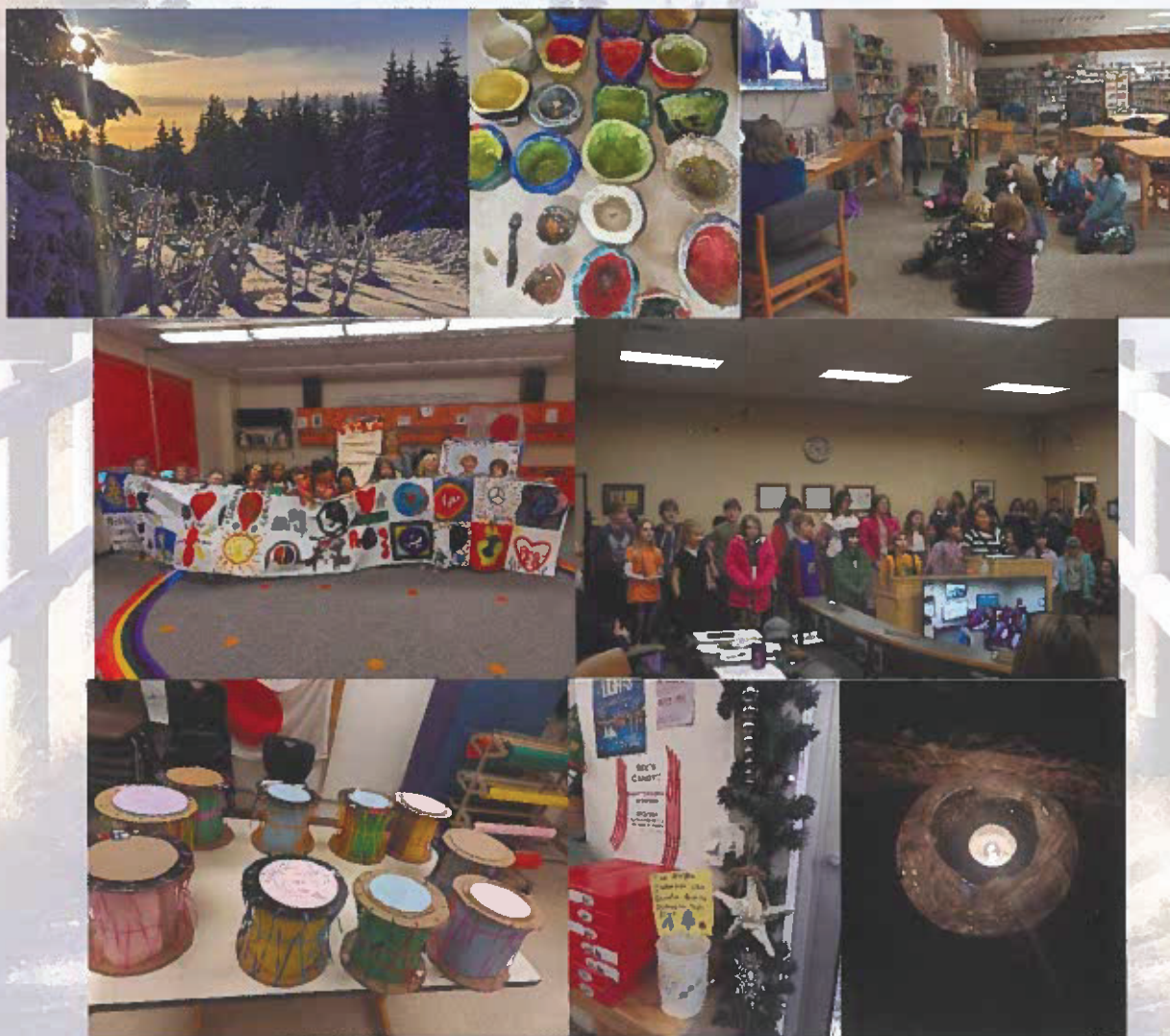
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1SAQYI4eFo>

第2位: パーマー高校ジェマソン・ロア (Jaimeson Roa)

作品: 「一期一会」

パーマー市のパーマー中学校及びパーマー高校の学生10名、教師2名が2023年6月に北海道佐呂間町を訪問し18日間のホームステイした様子等を描写した、パーマー・佐呂間町姉妹都市交流の動画。

3rd place: Megumi Morikawa



3rd place: Megumi Morikawa Beams - The Alaska Japanese Club

Title: "Connections between Taishi in Hyogo and Teshio in Hokkaido, Japan, and Homer City, Alaska, the United States"

The art project is about the exchanges between Homer Elementary School children and Japanese students through online class sessions. Peace themed drawn and painted banners illustrate a friendship without boundaries created by Homer Elementary School students to sister city Teshio Town, and Homer-Teshio sister city 40th anniversary in 2024. The work consists of photos and text, also explaining the process of making the Taiko drums scheduled to be used at the anniversary event this year.

第3位: 森川めぐみBeams - アラスカ日本クラブ

作品: 「兵庫県太子町・北海道天塩町と米国アラスカ州ホーマー市との絆」

このアート・プロジェクトはオンライン授業を通じたホーマー小学校児童と日本人学生との交流をテーマにしたものです。小学生制作の平和をテーマにした横断幕は姉妹都市・天塩町と、2024年のホーマー市・天塩町姉妹都市締結40周年に向けた「国境なき友情」を表しています。作品は写真と文章で構成されており、今年の周年行事で使用予定の太鼓制作の模様も説明しています。

Special Awards

Japan-Alaska Historical Hero Award: Mikio Ueoka, Matsuyama (Ehime Prefecture)-Alaska Relationship through Jujiro Wada (1875-1937)



The historical hero Jujiro Wada's adventures in Alaska, his accomplishments such as the discovery of the dog sled trail, Jujiro's love for his mother, and the musical about Jujiro's life, which was performed in Alaska in 2015 by Mikan-Ichiza were celebrated in Mikio Ueoka's work. The work consists of a number of photographs and text that also introduced the establishment of the Jujiro statue at Seward City Seaside Park in 2016.

(在アンカレジ領事事務所により以下の賞が決定されました。)

日アラスカ・歴史偉人賞: 上岡幹夫氏 (和田重次郎顕彰会会長)

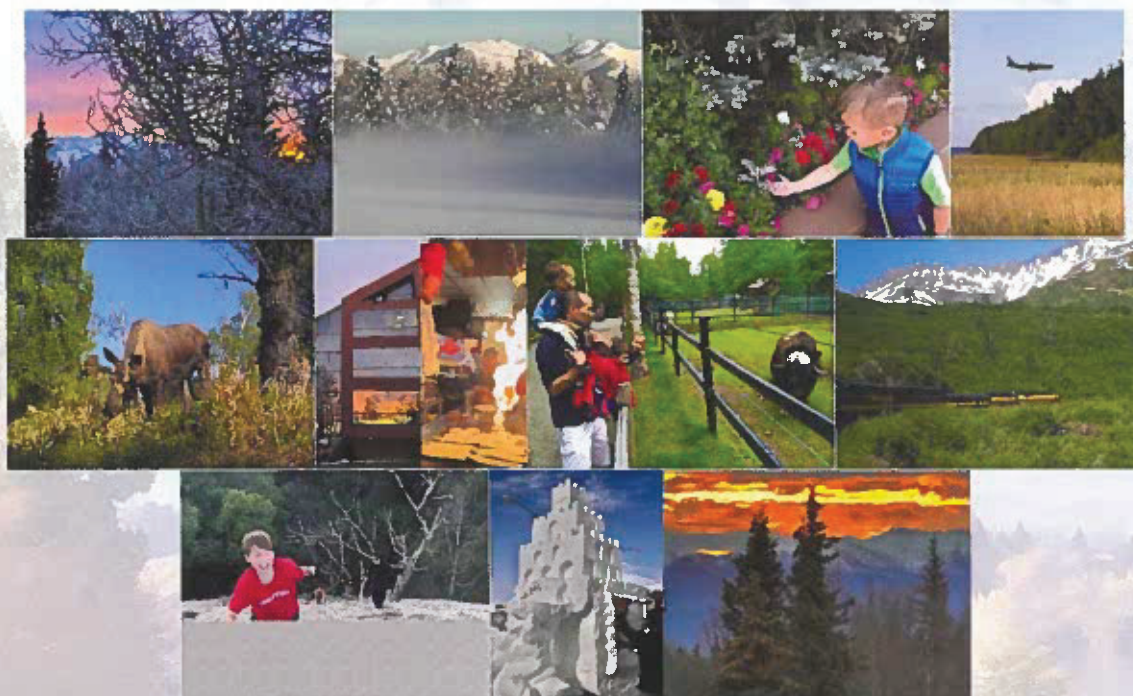
作品: 「冒険家和田重次郎 (1875-1937) を通したアラスカとの交流」

歴史的英雄である和田重次郎のアラスカにおける冒険や犬ぞりトレイルの発見等の偉業、重次郎が母親思いであったことや、重次郎の生涯を描いたミュージカルの劇団みかん一座による2015年のアラスカ公演、2016年にスワード市海浜公園に重次郎像が建立されたこと等を紹介する写真の数々と文章で構成された作品

Special award winner: Dale Walther, Haiku & Photos

Photographs of Alaska's nature and 12 English haiku that describe them - Haiku collection

アラスカの自然を撮影した写真とそれを描写する英語俳句12点の写真・俳句集



Special award winner: Kevin Co, Homer's Hiroshima Peace Tree

Ginkgo seeds that survived after the atomic bombing in Hiroshima were presented to the citizens of Homer (Rotary Club members), and the grown ginkgo trees were donated to the public library with the "Sadako Sasaki" exhibition. Photo collection explaining the process.

広島で被爆後も生存しているイチョウの種がホーマー市民（ロータリークラブ会員）に贈呈され、それを育てたイチョウの木が「佐々木禎子」展示を行っている公立図書館に寄贈されたとの経緯を説明する写真集



アンカレッジ日本人補習学校・中学1年生の作者が、学校創立50周年を記念して実施された、学校ロゴのデザインコンテストに応募した自分の作品を説明する作品。サーモン、米国・日本の国旗をアレンジしたロゴ作品は3位に入賞した。このような経緯を写真と文章で説明する作品

Joy Merry's Palmer Pride Photograph work depicting the "Onigiri Action" in which 4 students from Palmer High School taught 115 students from Palmer Junior High School how to make onigiri balls.

パーマー高校の生徒4名がパーマー中学校115名におにぎりの作り方を教える「オニギリ・アクション」の模様を伝える写真による作品

Hiroko Harada's Anchorage Symphony The work explains a story about the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, which performed the Alaska State Song online in hopes for the people's good health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and its conductor, Randall Graig Fleischer, who passed away shortly after the performance.

新型コロナの影響下、人々の健康を願いオンラインでアラスカ州歌の演奏を行ったアンカレッジ・シンフォニー・オーケストラと、同演奏の直後に亡くなった指揮者ランドール・グレイグ・フライシャー氏 (Randall Craig Fleischer) を紹介するビデオ作品

Acknowledgments

Head Consul Masaru Aniya

Japan Alaska Sister City Town Pride Festa Host and Head of Office, Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

Alana Baxter

Master of Ceremonies

Madoka Klevorn

Zoom Technician

Traci Andreason

Translator and Presenter

Emily Hatley

Translator and Presenter

Megumi Morikawa Beams

Translator and Presenter

Daniel Holayter

Economics and Cultural Coordinator, Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

The Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage would like to thank all participants in this Japan Alaska Sister City Town Pride Festa for making it the most successful sister city campaign thus far. The judges were moved by the varying works, which have in different ways show the strength of our trans-pacific bonds and passion for cultural exchange again. Thank you to all who participated in this campaign.

HOMER NEWS

NEWS

Taiko drumming comes to Homer

Kachemak Bay Campus hosted a drum-building workshop as part of Homer's sister city celebrations

By [Delcenia Cosman](#) • May 8, 2024 1:30 am

Tags: [Arts and culture](#), [City of Homer](#), [Homer](#), [Kachemak Bay Campus](#), [Local News](#)



Lasse Holmes (left) and Mark Conrad (right) tack the formed and stretched drumskin onto the taiko drum base during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

Homer's 40th anniversary sister city celebrations got off to a banging start last weekend with a workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus, in which community members participated in taiko drum craftsmanship on Friday, May 3.

The Japanese word "taiko" translates literally to "drum," though the term also refers to a Japanese drumming style, a drum group, drum music or the drum itself. Taiko drums are a traditional Japanese percussion instrument that have historically been used in Japanese culture for centuries, from the military arena to theater to the Japanese imperial court.

Taiko drumming as an ensemble performance, or kumi-daiko, was created in Japan in 1951 by a jazz drummer named Daihachi Oguchi. The art was later introduced to North America in 1968, when Grandmaster Seiichi Tanaka created the San Francisco Taiko dojo.

Tomodachi Daiko Inc., an Anchorage-based taiko group which was founded in 2000, visited Homer over the weekend and brought with them three completed taiko drums, which they donated to the city, as well as materials for building three more drums. Frank Jeffries, who has been part of Tomodachi Daiko since 2005, led the workshop.

"Taiko drumming is sort of a vice," he said at the start of Friday's event. "Once you start doing it and you enjoy it, then you play for people and they get all excited, it snowballs. The goal in coming down here is to teach you how to build drums that you can create for yourself, without any assistance anybody, a finished product as a playable instrument."

Although they are typically carved from a single log or, in order to make taiko more affordable and accessible, built from wine barrels or similar materials, Jeffries instead used 2-foot sections of PVC pipe with the edges rounded off to avoid damaging the skin that is stretched over the top. The base materials were donated by Homer's Alaska Japanese Club, while the other materials for the drums were donated by Jeffries and his wife, Jacki Holzman.

Tomodachi Daiko also donated several pairs of bachi, or wooden drumsticks, to be used with the new drums.

"The reason why I started building drums is because you couldn't buy a wooden drum for less than \$6,000 when I built my first one, so I built five wooden drums out of oak wine barrels," Jeffries said. "It's not cheap."

On Friday, Jeffries walked workshop attendees, including Alaska Japanese Club students and other Homer community members, through the various stages of putting together the three unbuilt drums. He'd come prepared with three steerhide skins, one of which was still dried, one of which had been soaked so as to be pliable for forming, and one which was pre-formed so participants could fit it over the drum, stretch it and tack it on.



Workshop attendees broke into small groups according to which task they were interested in partaking, often taking turns switching between tasks so everyone got a little hands-on experience with most of the stages of building the drums.

One group took the dried skin out onto the balcony outside KBC's Pioneer Hall and carefully drilled 64 pre-marked holes around the whole edge, into which dowels would later be fit to help the skin achieve its necessary form. This skin would later need to be soaked for about 12-16 hours before the dowels were inserted and it could be fit onto the drum.

Another group took the prepared, pliable skin and did what Jeffries called a "pre-stretch," where they inserted dowels through the drilled holes and stretched and formed the skin into the shape necessary to later fit over the drum.

Other workshop attendees worked to complete a taiko drum by fitting the final, pre-formed skin over it and stretching it. This was done by wrapping more than 50 feet of rope around the dowels that had been left in the skin and a prefabricated wooden base on which the drum itself sat. This created tension, temporarily securing the skin to the drum base and helping it to stretch in order to achieve the proper tone for playing as an instrument.

Alaska Japanese Club students especially enjoyed the next part, where they jumped on top of the skin in order to stretch it even further.

After Jeffries ensured that the skin had been stretched enough, to the point that the drum would sound the appropriate pitch when played, he set workshop attendees to tacking the skin to the base. The skin was then set to dry for three days, before the ropes could be removed and the drum would be ready for use.

The three drums that Jeffries had built before the workshop were used during the drumming performance workshop held in the Homer High School Mariner Theatre on Saturday, May 4.

For more information on last weekend's sister city celebrations with Tomodachi Daiko, visit www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/sister-city-events.



Cathy Stingley (left) and Elayna Wilson drill holes in a dried steerhide skin, which will later be soaked, formed and stretched into a taiko drumskin, during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Margaret Gervais holds Yaella Bowman (center) steady while she jumps on top of the taiko drumskin in order to stretch it during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



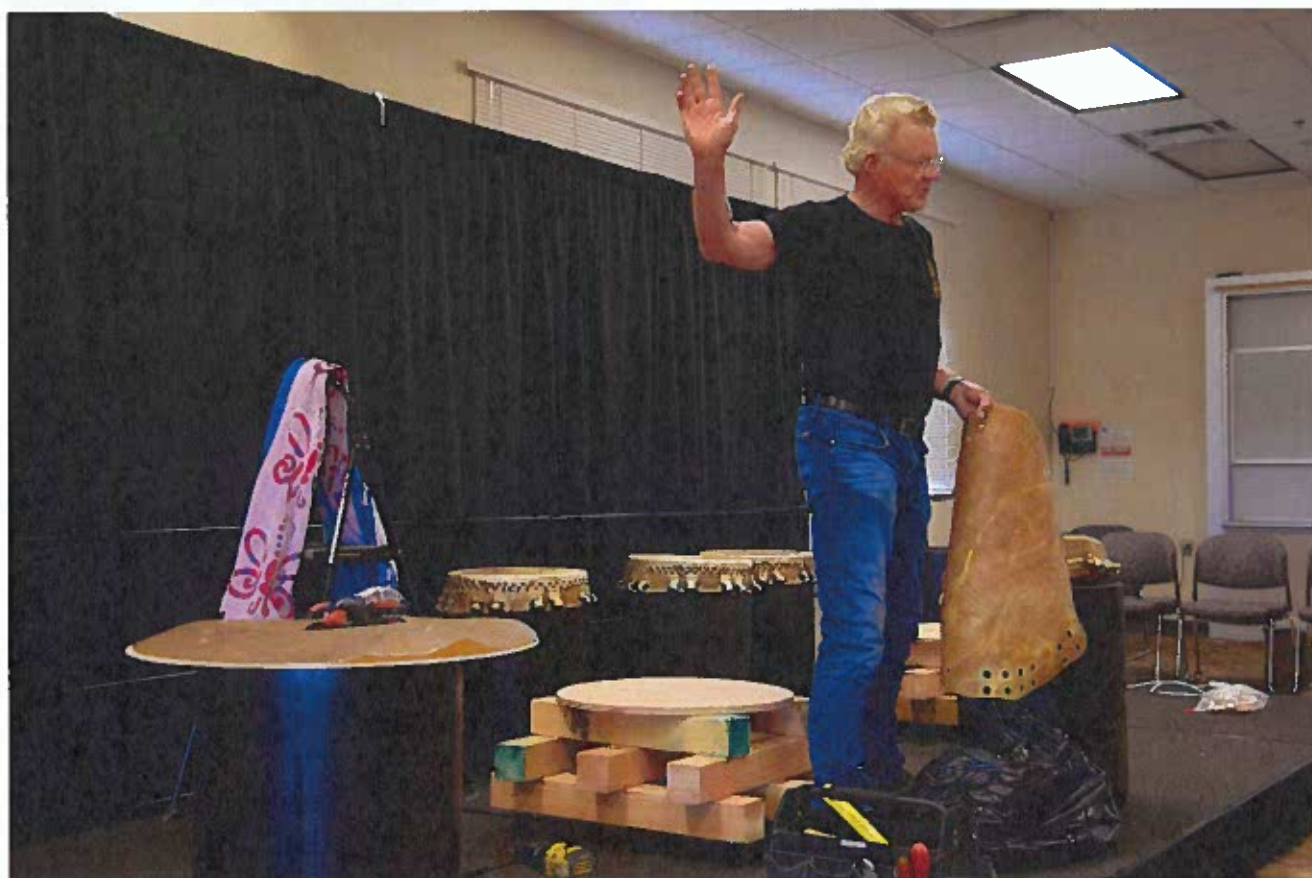
Frank Jeffries (left) teaches Alaska Japanese Club students how to secure the formed skin to the drum base in order to stretch it during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



(from left to right) Lasse Holmes, Anna Wolfson and Gordy Vernon form a drum skin by inserting wooden dowls through pre-drilled holes during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Students of Homer's Alaska Japanese Club stretch a formed steerhide skin over a drum base during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Frank Jeffries explains the process for building taiko drums during the free workshop hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, 2024 in Homer, Alaska, as part of Homer's 40th anniversary celebration of their sister city relationship with Teshio, Japan. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

HOMER NEWS

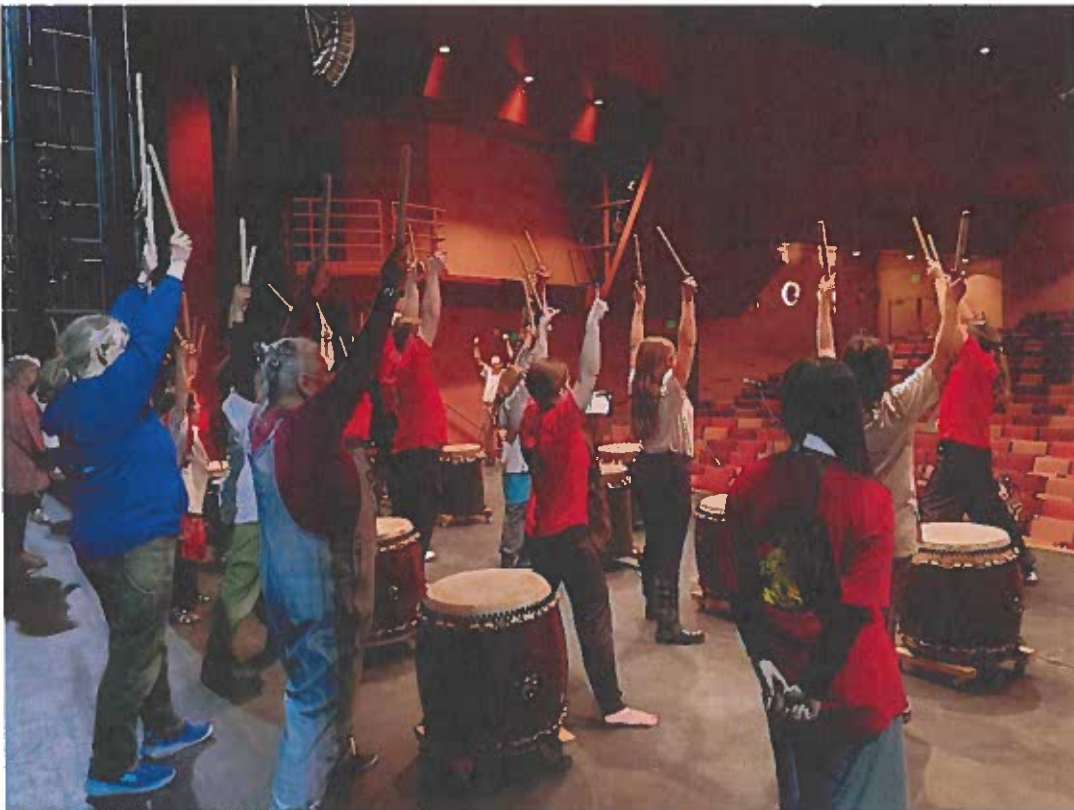
NEWS

'Making friends through taiko drumming'

Tomodachi Daiko held three taiko performances on Saturday, May 4 as part of sister city celebrations

By [Delcenia Cosman](#) • May 8, 2024 1:30 am

Tags: [Arts and culture](#), [City of Homer](#), [Homer](#), [Local News](#)



Homer community members, students with the Alaska Japanese Club, and Tomodachi Daiko members take part in a taiko drumming workshop led by Toshifumi Kono on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at the Homer High School Mariner Theatre in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

Homer was treated to an immersive Japanese traditional drum experience last weekend as part of the city celebrating their 40th anniversary with their sister city, Teshio, in Hokkaido, Japan.

Anchorage-based Tomodachi Daiko, Inc. held an intensive taiko drum-building workshop at Kachemak Bay Campus on Friday, May 3, followed by three taiko ensemble performances on Saturday, May 4 in Homer High School's Mariner Theatre. The free shows were held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

An additional workshop for community members and Homer's Alaska Japanese Club was held from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Mariner Theatre — this time to teach drum-playing, rather than drum-building. Participants in Saturday's workshop also took part in Tomodachi Daiko's final performance at 4:30 p.m.

“Tomodachi” translates to “friend” — the meaning behind Tomodachi Daiko’s name, then, can be either “friends of taiko drumming” or “making friends through taiko.”

“Our mission through taiko drumming is to make friends,” Tomodachi Daiko founder Sachiko Kono told Homer News on Saturday. “The most important thing is having fun — for both the drummers and the audience.”

Cathy Stingley, longtime Homer resident and president of the Pier One Theatre board of directors, recently returned from a visit to Teshio with her granddaughter and granddaughter’s friend. She gave introductory comments at Saturday’s performances, thanking the City of Homer, including assistant to the city manager Lori Pond and Homer Public Library director Dave Berry, for sponsoring the sister city celebrations.

Megumi Beams, sister city liaison/interpreter and Japanese international exchange coordinator and instructor, led students in Homer’s Alaska Japanese Club in singing a Japanese graduation song, “Believe,” at the start of each show.

Tomodachi Daiko played a wide repertoire of songs across all three of their scheduled performances, bringing a little something different to each show. Jacki Holzman, who began playing taiko and has been involved with Tomodachi Daiko since 2004, served as the emcee during the show and explained the significance or background of each song.

The ensemble used a variety of instruments in their performances, including several nagado daiko drums, which are the typical or most popular form of taiko drum which Tomodachi uses to perform the melody of each piece; three shime daiko, which are smaller Japanese drums that have a higher pitch than the nagado daiko; shinobue, which is a Japanese side-blown bamboo flute; and kane, which is a Japanese dish-shaped brass bell.



“We’ve got five different instruments, and then we have our voice, and then we have our bodies, which we also consider instruments,” Holzman said.

The ensemble began the first show with a song titled “Yamano Ohayashi,” which is a “celebration of our mountains, and also the mountains in Japan,” Holzman said.

“We have so much in common that we celebrate,” she said.

Second came a piece in three parts called “Alaska Hiryu.” Holzman said that, for this second song, audience members should imagine dragons “flying off over our lovely Alaskan mountains.”

According to Holzman, the third song, “Hanagattami,” was played in feudal Japan to send samurai out to battle.

› this is our battle cry,” she said.

The fourth song, "Alaska Nokokoro" — meaning "the heart of Alaska" — was written specifically for Tomodachi Daiko by Dengakuza, a professional taiko group from Japan's Nagano prefecture, for a joint concert performed by the two groups in Anchorage in the summer of 2023.

"We were so honored to have Dengakuza come and share a stage with us, and then to compose a song for us," Holzman said.

"Alaska Nokokoro" is played in four parts, with one representing the earth, one for the oceans, one representing the mountains and the final part representing the sky.

The final song in Tomodachi Daiko's first performance was called "Buchi Awase Daiko," which Holzman said is one of the most popular songs in Japan.

"Japan is made up of hundreds and hundreds of islands, and every single island has their own taiko, their own particular, unique style," Holzman said. "Which means that everybody thinks they're the best. So the story goes that the losing taiko group has to take the skins off their taiko and throw them into the ocean.... We hope you will let us keep our taiko."

For more information on Tomodachi Daiko, visit www.tomodachidaiko.org/.



Jacki Holzman (front center) plays "Buchi Awase Daiko" during Tomodachi Daiko's first show at the Homer High School Mariner Theatre on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Naoyuki Furuta (right) plays the kane, keeping the beat for the taiko drummers during Tomodachi Daiko's performance of "Alaska Nokokoro" during their first show on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at the Homer High School Mariner Theatre in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Toshifumi Kono (left) and Yurika Kushimoto (right) play fue, or Japanese bamboo flutes, to accompany Tomodachi Daiko's taiko drummers during their performance of "Alaska Nokokoro" during their first show at the Homer High School Mariner Theatre on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Frank Jeffries (front left) and Jacki Holzman (front right) play together during Tomodachi Daiko's first taiko drum performance on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the Homer High School Mariner Theatre in Homer, Alaska. Pictured in the background are Naoyuki Furuta (left), one of the leaders of Tokyo-based taiko group Chokoma, and TDI founder Sachiko Kono (right). (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



chorage-based Tomodachi Daiko performs "Yamano Oh" during their first show on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the Homer High School Mariner Theatre in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)



Homer's Alaska Japanese Club sings "Believe," a Japanese graduation song, before Tomodachi Daiko's first taiko drum performance on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the Homer High School Mariner Theatre in Homer, Alaska. (Delcenia Cosman/Homer News)

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Ciy of Homer
Budget for Sister City 40th Anniversary Celebrations
2024 - 2025

Donation Account: 809-0375-5202 for spending (809-0375-4905 received donations)									
Date	Item		Actual				Estimated		
			Revenue	Expense	Balance		Revenue	Expense	Balance
2/13/2024	Donation		\$ 60.00						
Total			\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00				

General Fund: Sister Cities: 100-0100-5605									
			Actual				Estimated		
Date	Item	Paid	Revenue	Expense	Balance		Revenue	Expense	Balance
	Fund Budget		\$ 4,000.00				\$ 4,000.00		
	PARCAC allocated - Mike Illg - for Theater		500.00				500.00		
	Fuel	check		600.00				600.00	
	Performance	check		500.00				600.00	
	B&B	check		1,500.00				1,200.00	
	Meals - 5/3 - Dinner (14 people)	check		210.00				540.00	
	Meals - 5/4 - Lunch & Dinner (14 people)	check		610.00				696.00	
				-				336.00	
	Mariner Theater	PARCAC						500.00	
	KPB Campus room	Credit Card		60.00				-	
	Museum Shelves	Credit Card		450.00				500.00	
	Labels & Signs	n/a		-				100.00	
	Drink Supplies for Events	Credit Card		51.25					
Total			\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,981.25	\$ 518.75		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,072.00	\$ (572.00)

Sister City Fund for 40th Anniversary Celebrations: 156-0399-5605									
Date	Item		Actual				Estimated		
			Revenue	Expense	Balance		Revenue	Expense	Balance
2/13/2024	Appropriated by Ordinance 24-11(A)		\$ 20,000.00						
Total			\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00				

PARCAC Account:									
			Actual				Estimated		
Date	Item		Revenue	Expense	Balance		Revenue	Expense	Balance
	PARCAC allocated - Mike Illg - for Theater		500.00						
	Mariner Theater	PARCAC		475.00					
Total			\$ 500.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 25.00				



MEMORANDUM

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force
Date: May 1, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk

Member Xander Underwood as the first applicant will open the meeting as Acting Chair and take the group through the agenda to the selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

The responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair are as follows:

- The duty of the Chair is to preside at all meetings, facilitate orderly and relevant discussion of agenda items brought before the Task Force, and report the recommendations to City Council.
- The duty of the Vice Chair is to fill the role of the Chair in their absence.

Mr. Underwood will open the floor for selection of Chair.

- A Task Force member will move to appoint _____ as Chair.
- A Task Force member can second or nominate another member of the Task Force
- When the motion passes that person will assume the gavel and open the floor for selection of Vice Chair.
- A Task Force member will move to appoint _____ as Vice Chair.

Another option available is to wait until all positions on the Task Force have been filled. We do have word of a potential applicant, but it hasn't been received as of this memorandum. The Election can be postponed to the next meeting.

Recommendation

Conduct election or make a motion to postpone to the next meeting when the vacancies are filled.