

Provision of Materials

Provided on: Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Provided by:

- National Network for Promoting Arts and Cultural Activities of Disabled People towards Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- International Exchange Program Executive Committee for Disabled People's Culture and Arts
- Culture and Art Promotion Division, Department of Art and Sports, Shiga Prefectural Government

*Jointly hold by three parties: event organizers (two organizations) and the prefectural government hosting the event

Inquiries:

About the event

International Exchange Program Executive Committee for Disabled People's Culture and Arts

(Person in charge: Mr. Miki, TEL: 0748-46-8100)

About projects and activities undertaken in Shiga Prefecture

Culture and Art Promotion Division, Department of Art and Sports, Shiga Prefectural Government

(Person in charge: Mr. Fujita, TEL: 077-528-3344)

TOKYO 2020 & Japan Cultural Expo - Disabled People's Arts and Culture Festival - Grand Opening -

Dates: Fri, February 7 – Sun, February 9, 2020



From Fri, February 7 to Sun, February 9, 2020, the grand opening event for the Disabled People's Arts and Culture Festival will be held in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture.

This festival is held as part of the Japan Cultural Expo, or Nihonhaku, hosted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The festival aims to express the theme of the Japan Cultural Expo—"Humanity and Nature in Japan"—through artistic and cultural works by people with disabilities, and showcase the charms of disability art and culture to people around the globe. The festival will go on tour and will be held at several locations across Japan, from Hokkaido to Kyushu, from fiscal 2020 to 2021.

Marking the beginning of the festival, the opening event will be held in Shiga Prefecture for the three days indicated above.

One of the opening programs, Art Brut World Forum, will bring together, from around the world, distinguished people involved in promoting "art brut," including Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault (former French Prime Minister, Honorary Mayor of Nantes) to engage in a meaningful discussion toward establishing an international network.

In addition to the World Forum, the opening event features a wide variety of programs that allow visitors to feel the artistic expression of persons with disabilities. These programs include an exhibition of art brut works that have been highly rated in Japan and abroad in recent years, live performances by people with disabilities and an inspection tour of formative activities by disabled people.

In the same venue, Amenity Forum 24, a nationwide welfare forum, where people involved in welfare across the country get together to discuss and exchange ideas on various welfare issues will also be held.

Being a place where Kazuo Itoga, dubbed the “father of welfare for the disabled in Japan,” began artistic activities for children with disabilities, ahead of the rest of the country, Shiga Prefecture has a long-standing history of promoting welfare for persons with disabilities and their cultural and artistic activities. We sincerely invite members of the media to cover this festival and activities being undertaken in Shiga Prefecture.

1 Coverage

(1) Programs and events held at the grand opening venue

We invite media representatives to let them collect first-hand information on various grand opening events and programs. You can collect information freely at the venue.

Event Name: TOKYO 2020 & Japan Cultural Expo - Disabled People’s Arts and Culture Festival

- Grand Opening -

[Sponsors] Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Arts Council, National Network for Promoting Arts and Cultural Activities of Disabled People towards Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, International Exchange Program Executive Committee for Disabled People’s Culture and Arts

Date/Time: Fri, February 7 – Sun, February 9

Place: Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel Convention Hall, etc. (4-7-7 Nionohama, Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture)

Programs:

Art Brut World Forum (Japanese, English)

Disabled People’s Performing Arts Fair (Japanese (Explanatory material in English))

Art Brut Exhibition: “Humanity and Nature in Japan” Exhibition” (Japanese, English)

Barrier Free Film Festival 2020 (Japanese only)

Workshop -Source of Expressions- (Japanese, English)

Website:

<https://artbrut-creation-nippon.jp/>

(2) Inspection tour

In one of the above-listed programs: Workshop -Source of Expressions-, an inspection tour will be conducted, in which guests (panelists) at the grand opening will participate. We invite media representatives to the tour for information gathering.

Program Name: Workshop -Source of Expressions-

Date/Time: Sun, February 9 10:00am - 4:00pm

Place: Shigaraki Town, Koka City (A tour bus will be provided to transport participants for the tour. Media representatives can ride on the tour bus.)

Languages: Japanese, English

Tour Outline:

The tour visits Shigaraki Seinenryo, a foundation for disabled people’s formative activities in Shiga Prefecture, and other related facilities. The tour also takes participants on a leisurely stroll through the streets of Shigaraki Town.

Schedule:

9:00am	depart at Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel
9:15am	stop in front of JR Otsu Station to pick up participants
10:00am-12:00pm	Visit to the Shigaraki Seinenryo Appreciate artworks and observe facilities including a workshop where works are made.
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (venue undecided)
1:00pm-2:00pm	Stroll around Shigaraki Town
2:00pm-4:00pm	Visit to the Shiga Prefectural Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Experience making a work with clay, together with artists from Shigaraki Seinenryo.
5:00pm	Arrive at JR Otsu Station

2 Points to Note for Information Gathering**(1) Expenses associated with information gathering**

Participation fee is free of charge. (Transportation fees to the venue and the meeting point are at your own expense.)

(2) Meeting place

For information gathering at the grand opening venue, please come to the reception counter on the day of the event. For the inspection tour, come to either pick-up location (Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel or in front of JR Otsu Station). (Details of the pick-up locations will be announced later.)

(3) How to apply

Please apply by email no later than Wednesday, February 5, by providing all required information as listed below.

Name of participant

Company name

Media type (Newspaper, magazine, TV, etc.)

Email address

Mobile phone number (for communication on the day)

Coverage (1) Grand opening programs/events at the venue (2) Inspection tour

Others: If you participate in (2) the inspection tour, please indicate the pick-up location where you will board the bus.

[Booking and Inquiries]

International Exchange Program Executive Committee for Disabled People's Culture and Arts
(Social welfare Organization Glow)

Person in charge: Mr. Miki, Planning Division

TEL: 0748-46-8100 e-mail: kikaku@glow.or.jp

Address: 4837-2 Shimotoyoura, Azuhi-cho, Omihachiman-shi, Shiga 521-1311

Reference

TOKYO 2020 & Japan Cultural Expo - Disabled People's Arts and Culture Festival - Grand Opening - Programs Commemorating the Grand Opening



1 Initiatives for the promotion of cultural and artistic activities for persons with disabilities in Shiga Prefecture

In Shiga Prefecture, just after the Second World War, clay-based art activities started at Omi Gakuen the welfare facility for children with disabilities. This was led by Mr. Kazuo Itoga, Mr. Ichiji Tamura, and Mr. Taro Ikeda, who are known as the fathers of welfare for the disabled in Japan. The artistic activities, which began at Omi Gakuen, have been passed onto many social welfare facilities across Shiga Prefecture, together with Mr. Itoga's philosophy of welfare for the disabled, expressed in his words: "Let these children be the light of the world." With the involvement of many people, many outstanding works, which have been highly regarded in the field of art, have been produced.

Shiga Prefecture has taken the lead in Japan in creating places for exhibiting art brut works such as Borderless Art Museum NO-MA, and creating an environment where everyone can enjoy formative activities and expressive activities.



In the meantime, Shiga Prefecture began to attract global attention as a center for disability inclusion through art. In 2008, NO-MA held a special exhibition in collaboration with the Art Brut Collection museum in Switzerland. In various overseas exhibitions including the Art Brut Japonais exhibition held in 2010 in Paris and the Japan x Nantes Project held in 2017, works created by artists from Shiga Prefecture have been exhibited, receiving global recognition.

Furthermore, expressive activities such as dance and performing art have been spreading throughout the prefecture. One of the groups involved in those activities, Konan Dance Company, will participate in this festival.

Ahead of the rest of the country, Shiga Prefectural Government has worked to create an environment where everyone, regardless of whether or not they have a disability, can enjoy formative and expressive activities.

As part of such efforts, Shiga Prefecture provided support to establish the Art Brut Information and Support Center, an organization to provide intermediate support services including protection of rights of creators of works, so that persons with disabilities can engage in artistic activities with hope and peace of mind. In 2013, Shiga Prefecture



established a national organization, “Art Brut Network” and has worked to foster momentum to support art brut through the involvement of various stakeholders. Also, to ensure that many people experience the charms of art brut first-hand, works are displayed at various facilities in Shiga Prefecture.

In performing arts, we have offered an opportunity to appreciate performing arts at “Let’s go to Biwako Hall Concert!” which is a concert for elementary school students and supported the Music Festival of Kazuo Itoga Memorial Award, where borderless stage performances are performed in collaboration with artists and people with disabilities.

Shiga Prefecture is currently formulating the Plan for Promoting Cultural and Artistic Activities of Persons with Disabilities.

Shiga Prefecture seeks to complete the formulation of the plan in March this year, with the aim of creating an environment where all the people, regardless of whether they have disabilities or not, can enjoy cultural and artistic activities and flourish.

As stated above, in Shiga Prefecture, various entities cooperate to create an inclusive society where all the residents can live their lives to the fullest through cultural and artistic activities and can support one another. We are making efforts based on the viewpoint of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aiming to realize a sustainable society where no one is left behind.

2. Outline of Each Program

(1) Art Brut World Forum (Feb. 7: 13:00 – 18:10, Feb. 8: 9:15 -18:45)

The Forum will bring together, from around the world, distinguished people involved in promoting art brut to engage in a meaningful discussion toward establishing an international network.

(Major presenters)

Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault (former French Prime Minister, Honorary Mayor of Nantes)

Mr. Masanori Aoyagi (former Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Director of Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art)

Ms. Lynne Cooke (Senior Curator, Special Projects in Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington)

Ms. Martine Lusardy (Director of Halle Saint Pierre Museum, Paris)

A Forum by members from the Governors League and the Diet Members League formed to promote disabled people’s cultural and artistic activities will also be held.

(Major participants)

Mr. Taizo Mikazuki (Governor of Shiga Prefecture), Mr. Shinji Hirai (Governor of Tottori Prefecture), Mr. Seiichi Eto (Minister in Charge of Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens), Ms. Michiyo Takagi (Member of the House of Representatives)

Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault



Mr. Masanori Aoyagi



Ms. Lynne Cooke



(2) Disabled People’s Performing Arts Fair (Feb. 8: 11:00 - 19:30, Feb 9: 13:30 - 15:45)

This event features performing arts in various genres, such as local performing art, music, theater, and dance.

(Major performers)

Zuiho Taiko (Nagasaki Prefecture)

A Japanese drum performance group comprised of persons with intellectual disability. The group gives more than 100 performances a year, getting a favorable reception around the world. The Group is also active in social contribution activities through performances at juvenile reformatories, prisons and schools. The group received the MEXT Minister’s commendation in 2017.

Salsa Gum Tape (Kanagawa Prefecture)

A rock band formed by Mr. Tetsu Kashiwa, who served as *the 5th singer brother in a children’s TV program on NHK “Okaasan to Issho (With Mother),”* and other persons with intellectual disability. The band has been energetically performing live performances at various venues around the world including Fuji Rock Festival.

Konan Dance Company (Shiga Prefecture)

A dance group comprised of persons with intellectual disability and staff members of welfare facilities. Konan Dance Company performed at the “2018 Japan x France Project,” held in Paris as part of the International Exchange Program for Disabled People’s Culture and Arts, and their performance was very well received.

Zuiho Taiko



Salsa Gum Tape



Konan Dance Company



(3) Art Brut Exhibition: “Humanity and Nature in Japan” Exhibition (Feb. 7 & 8: 9:00 - 19:00, Feb. 9: 9:00 - 14:00)

About 300 artworks created by persons with disabilities will be exhibited. The Japanese mentality that cherishes the colors of each of the four seasons and traditional atmosphere is well brought out in the works.

Exhibits



Akane Kimura



Yusuke Kimura

Exhibition room *past exhibition



(4) Barrier Free Film Festival 2020 (Feb. 7: 13:00 - 24:30, Feb 8: 10:00 - 24:30, Feb. 9: 10:00 - 12:00)

A total of eight movies with barrier-free subtitles and audio guides will be screened. Talk events will also be held, inviting directors and actors of the screened movies.

(Major films to be screened)

Nichi Nichi Kore Koujitsu (Every Day a Good Day)

Directed by Tatsushi Omori

Hikinige - Saiko no Saiakuna Hi - (Leaving the Scene)

Directed by Yutaka Mizutani

Heisa Byoto - Sorezore no Asa - (Closed Ward)

Directed by Hideyuki Hirayama

Eyeglasses-type terminal for the hearing impaired



(5) Workshop -Source of Expressions-

Shigaraki is a world-famous pottery town. The town is also a place which laid the foundations for disabled people’s formative activities through pottery. Shigaraki Seinenryo is a living facility for people with intellectual disability established in 1955 in Shigaraki by Taro Ikeda, who devoted himself to establishing the child welfare facility Omi Gakuen. A lot of very unique and unparalleled formative works have been produced in this facility. Since olden times, students living in the Dormitory have commuted to local potteries to make pottery. In Shigaraki, even in olden days, it was not surprising that persons with disabilities went to work. Shigaraki was advanced in those days.

The tour will allow participants to view attractive works created in the Shigaraki Seinenryo and to

learn their background, as well as to feel the atmosphere of Shigaraki.

[Schedule]

- 9:00am depart at Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel
- 9:15am stop in front of JR Otsu Station to pick up participants
- 10:00am-12:00pm Visit to the Shigaraki Seinenryo
Appreciate artworks and observe facilities including a workshop where works are made.
- 12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch (venue undecided)
- 1:00pm-2:00pm Stroll around Shigaraki Town
- 2:00pm-4:00pm Visit to the Shiga Prefectural Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Experience making a work with clay, together with artists from Shigaraki Seinenryo.
- 5:00pm Arrive at JR Otsu Station

Shigaraki Seinenryo



Climbing Kiln in Shigaraki



Shiga Prefectural Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park

