



## **KANSHA ALUMNI LEADERSHIP BOARD INFO SHEET 2018 - 2019**

### **What is the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board (ALB)?**

The Alumni Leadership Board is an initiative of the JACL Chicago program, Kansha Project, that provides an opportunity for meaningful and sustained engagement for Kansha Project participants after they have completed the program. The board will be comprised of former Kansha Project participants. ALB members will receive skills and content training and participate in a strategic planning process for the Kansha Project in order to shape and implement their vision of the program's future. The Kansha ALB will be comprised of alumni with a high commitment level who can attend monthly planning meetings at the JACL Chicago office.

### **What are the goals of the ALB?**

The goal of the Alumni Leadership Board is to ensure the future sustainability of the Kansha Project by providing a structure for young people to move from one-time program recipients to active partners in shaping the future of this program.

Some initial objectives for the ALB include:

- Developing a shared, youth-driven vision for the future of the Kansha Project and actively working towards that vision
- Creating a curriculum guide for the Kansha Project program
- Engaging Kansha Project alumni in planning and facilitating the program
- Creating a fundraising strategy and plan that aims to diversify and sustain Kansha Project's funding
- Keeping Kansha Project alumni connected and engaged to each other and to the program

### **Why should I get involved?**

- Re-engage with and shape the future of the Kansha Project.
- Reconnect with participants from your year and meet alumni from other program years.
- Enhance your knowledge of the incarceration experience.
- Gain valuable facilitation, project management, program planning, and leadership skills.
- Get connected to and involved with JACL Chicago and the Chicago Japanese American community.

### **What are the responsibilities/expectations and time commitment of joining the ALB?**

As a member of the ALB, you will be part of a group that will plan and implement the Kansha Project in 2018-2019. Therefore, **we ask that you commit to being a part of the ALB at least through September 2019.** Because the Kansha Alumni Board is a young adult-driven program, we need a few continuing ALB members from year to year. Though it is not required, please consider if you can stay involved with ALB beyond the 2018-2019 term upon applying.

Your exact responsibilities will vary and will be decided once this year's board is determined and committees have been formed. Previous year's responsibilities and tasks included marketing, fundraising for the program (ie. applying for grants, fundraising events), ALB development, and program planning. You are expected to attend monthly board meetings at the JAACL office. The board will meet every third Wednesday of the month. Some committees may meet outside of the full board meetings for committee specific planning. When applying please keep in mind your schedule for the year and amount of time you are capable of committing to the board.

### **Will I get to go to Little Tokyo and Manzanar again?**

Not everyone on the board will be able to attend the trip as a facilitator. Typically the program committee, consisting of 2-3 people, attends as facilitators for the trip. They will work as a group to plan and organize the entire trip's programming and logistics.

### **I don't live in Chicago. Can I still be involved?**

Members of the Kansha ALB members must be able to attend monthly meetings in-person. Unfortunately, we currently are not able to accommodate those who would need to work remotely. Of course, we always need supporters! Please continue to spread the word about Kansha: share social media posts, attend events, and get friends/family to apply and donate!

### **How do I apply?**

Applications will be available until September 7, at 11:59pm. Link to apply can be found [here](#) and on the JAACL Chicago website - [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org)

### **Key Dates:**

- Fall Retreat - September 30, 2-6pm at the JAACL office
- Spring Retreat - Date TBD
- Kansha Project – Mid-late June (*June 6 – 10 OR June 13 – 17, tentatively*)
- Kansha Project Culmination – Mid-late June, the weekend following the Kansha Project
- Summer Retreat - Date TBD

You must be able to attend monthly in person meetings every third Wednesday of each month at the JAACL office. The 2018-2019 term is from September 2018 (Fall retreat) to September 2019 (ALB meeting).