



KANSHA ALUMNI LEADERSHIP BOARD INFO SHEET 2023

What is the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board (ALB)?

The Alumni Leadership Board is an extension of the JACL Chicago program, Kansha Project, that was established in 2015. The Kansha ALB 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 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.

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 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 2023. **We ask that you commit to being a part of the ALB through September 2023.** While roles and responsibilities will vary, the time commitment will be a minimum of 3 - 5

hours per month.

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, alumni engagement, and program planning. You are expected to attend monthly board meetings (likely remotely, but possible in-person if it's determined to be safe). Meeting dates will be set by the new board. Some planning may occur outside of the full board meetings. When applying please keep in mind your schedule for the year and amount of time you are capable of committing to the board.

Projects the 2023 Kansha ALB may work on (other than the 2023 Kansha Project):

- Fundraising opportunities such as virtual and/or in person campaigns and planned giving
- Kansha Project alumni re-engagement
- Joint events with other JACL Chicago groups, such as with NGN or Our Story (JACL Chicago Education Committee)
- Board development - workshops and trainings for board members
- Further improve ALB processes and documentation

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?

We are prioritizing local community engagement, however, depending on the location and preferences of applicants, meetings may be held virtually.

Will I be compensated for my participation on Kansha ALB?

Participation in the 2023 Kansha ALB is volunteer-based and unpaid. However, the ALB facilitators who attend the Kansha Project trip in June will receive a stipend for facilitation.

How do I apply?

Applications will be available until January 6th, 2023 at 11:59pm. Link to apply can be found [here](#) and on the JACL Chicago website - www.jaclchicago.org.

Key Dates:

- Kansha ALB Application Deadline: January 6th
- Board term: January through September 2023

You must be able to attend monthly meetings, whether they are held remotely or in-person.