

STACEY L. SHIGAYA

staceys@sakurafoundation.org | 303.951.4486

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sakura Foundation, Denver, CO – Executive Director (current), Program Director, Executive Coordinator 2014 to present

Sakura Square LLC, Denver, CO – Executive Advisor (current), Program Director, Executive Coordinator 2014 to present

Sakura Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and celebrating Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) culture and heritage in order to promote a more resilient, compassionate, and equitable society

- Develops, organizes, implements, and promotes cultural projects, programs, and events to enhance lives, build understanding, and create cultural awareness.
- Networks with and conducts outreach to J/JA, Asian, and other BIPOC communities to uplift and support their missions and encourage collaborations. This includes connecting with J/JA organizations in metro Denver, Colorado, and across the country.
- Oversees and implements two large signature events, including management of marketing/promotion, grants/sponsorships, entertainment, vendors, equipment and insurance procurement, city ordinance compliance, volunteers, and all logistical elements of each:
 - **Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival**, with a budget of \$75K and weekend attendance of 25K-35K. Festival income increased from a deficit of \$20K in 2016 to its current revenue of \$30K. The festival is co-presented with Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple.
 - **Spirit of Japan**, with a budget of \$414K and weekend attendance of 5K. Tickets for the 2024 inaugural event were sold out.
- Plans and implements the **Mirai Generations Leadership Program** and **Torchbearer Program** for young professionals from all walks of life, **Chibi no Gakkō** cultural school for grades 1-8, and the Colorado cohort participation in **Yo!Camp**, a JA cultural camp experience based in LA, for campers age 9 through 14 of all ethnicities.
- Manages and implements the membership program, community grants, scholarships, sponsorships, and donations to support the community in ways that align with the mission of the Foundation.
- Creates and manages the operating budget and supervises the accounting services to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- Supervises content and maintenance of sakurafoundation.org and cherryblossomdenver.org, Sakura Foundation's quarterly eNewsletter, and informational email blasts.
- Compiles the annual Community Report to inform donors, sponsors, supporters, and the community on how Sakura Foundation lives its mission, shares J/JA cultural and history, and uplifts the community as a whole.
- Collaborates with the Board of Directors to ensure that the mission of Sakura Foundation is at the forefront of all of its efforts, that it is a good steward to its membership, donors, and supporters, and that it reflects on and evaluates its initiatives on a regular basis to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

Sakura Square LLC owns, operates, and manages Sakura Square, located in the heart of downtown Denver, and is wholly owned by Sakura Foundation

- Works closely with the CEO on LLC initiatives as well as items that intersect with Sakura Foundation, such as the implementation of events, use of space, and promotion of Sakura Square.
- Contributes to the strategic planning and implementation of the Sakura Square redevelopment project, which entails a plan to re-vision the entire block due to the advanced age of the current buildings. Serves on the following committees: Communications, Options, Temple/Community Center, and Capital Campaign, with the intention of maintaining the block as a J/JA cultural hub for people from all walks of life for generations to come.
- Assists with the management of Human Resources functions of the LLC, including supervision of HR consultants, personnel policies, benefits package, hiring, employee reviews, and employee incentives.

ADS Precise Consultants, Denver, CO – Independent Contractor 2010 to 2014

ADS Precise Consultants is a dental brokerage firm which conducts practice sales, valuations, and transitions and requires a high level of professionalism and confidentiality

- Created, advertised, and tracked dental practice listings, created dental practice prospectuses and financial spreadsheets, created and distributed quarterly client updates using ACT, maintained a professional relationship with dentist clients, facilitated communication between sellers, potential buyers and company officers, and assisted with the compilation of purchase documents.
- Processed and tracked buyer inquiries, served as front-line communicator with buyers, and counseled buyers on the protocol for purchasing a dental practice.
- Supervised website contractor, managed vendor relationships, compiled and submitted accurate Goodwill Registry reports, and created Fee Survey reports using the proprietary Administrative Framework.

CableNetWorkz /ConnectWorkz LLC (CNWz), Denver, CO - Director of Affiliate Relations 2000 to 2010

CNWz, now WebWorkz LLC, is an Internet services company which builds and maintains websites and produces and supports all aspects of email marketing

- Managed client accounts by understanding and effectively communicating client needs to technical support staff. Clients ranged from large multi-million dollar companies to small business proprietorships.
- Managed all aspects of email newsletter and website projects, which included advising clients on best practices, creating and editing content, and implementing SEO. Effectively tracked project tasks and conducted quality control checks.
- Updated content for all Time Warner Cable National Division websites using their proprietary software.

Time Warner Cable, Englewood, CO - Research Manager 1993 to 2000

Time Warner Cable at the time was the second largest cable company in the USA, with 47,300 employees, 28.9 million residential and business customers in 29 states, and revenues of \$21.4 billion

- Managed research projects and customer satisfaction surveys in an economical and efficient manner, including questionnaire design, hiring of interview firms, and analysis of data and report writing. Recommended courses of action based on research results and presented oral and written results.
- Advised Divisions on research matters such as questionnaire design, methodology, sample size criteria, and implementation of research methodology.
- Summarized outside research and synthesized various research reports for distribution to the Divisions in departmental publications.

Early Work Experience: Began in the mental health field at Lakeside Hospital and Parkwood Hospital as Unit Technician and Secretary, at Christian Brothers University as Admissions and Career Counselor, and market research firms Kenny & Associates and Message Factors, Inc. as Research Analyst and Project Manager, respectively.

EDUCATION

MS in Counseling and Personnel Services, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

BA in Human Development and Learning, Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN

Magna Cum Laude, Outstanding Graduate of the Human Development and Learning Department

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & RECOGNITION

- **2024 Asian American Hero of Colorado Award Recipient** presented by Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network
- **LEAP Engage Training for Executive Directors** – Class of 2022
- **Asian Avenue Magazine** – Inclusion in the May 2021 Special Edition: Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Desi Americans to Know in Denver
- **Community Board Bound presented by Women’s Leadership Foundation** - Certificate Holder, Class of 2018
- **Downtown Denver Leadership Program** - Class of 2017
- **Sakura Foundation:** 2019 recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr Business Award and 2024 recipient of Denver Public Schools’ Asian Education Advisory Council Community Award

COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER AFFILIATIONS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- **Museum of Denver, Board Member** – Dedicated to the creation of a museum celebrating the people and places in the great city of Denver, Colorado and spotlighting the city's past, present, and future
- **PFLAG National** – Current online session facilitator for PFLAG Connects: Asian American & Pacific Islander Community for allies
- **Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ+ Community** – Based in Los Angeles; served as Okaeri Connects! Team Member for online meetings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to build support and community across the U.S. (2020-2021); 2023 Conference Planning Team Member and Session Speaker (November 10-12, 2023); current Parent Convening Committee Member
- **Denver Women's Commission** – Dedicated to the women of Denver and their families and acted as their liaison and advocate to the Mayor of Denver; Commissioner from 2021 to 2024
- **PFLAG Denver** – Past Board Member and Board Secretary (2019-2021)
- **Simpson United Methodist Church** – Past Ad Council Co-Chair, Cultural Team Leader, Trustee, and Staff Parish Relations Committee Member

Community Volunteer Affiliations:

- Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
- Day of Remembrance – annual observation presented by Mile High Japanese American Citizens League in observance of the signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942

Community and National Memberships:

- Asian Chamber of Commerce of Colorado
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Public Library Friends Foundation
- Denver-Takayama Sister Cities Committee
- History Colorado
- Japan America Society of Colorado
- Japanese American National Museum
- Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado
- Mile High Japanese American Citizens League