

JC Legacies Grant - Victoria Youngsei Report 2024

- In January 2024 the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society was a recipient of a JC Legacies Community Grant of \$40,000 for VNCS 30th Anniversary Celebration Year. The VNCS grant proposal was prepared by Karen Koyanagi Geiger who with grant funding created a new Victoria Youngsei Group with a budget of \$8,000.
- Youngsei is a Japanese Canadian youth group of about 30 young people ages 19-35 years old who span different generations (nisei, sansei, yonsei, and gosei). Karen Koyanagi Geiger is the VNCS Board Lead along with VNCS National Youth lead Djuna Nagasaki thanks to funding from the JC Legacies fund. Hannah Mariko Bell joined the group as Regional Youth lead in March 2024 to help organize and lead events.
- Youngsei was created to provide Japanese Canadian youth in Victoria with a space dedicated to youth getting to know one another and make genuine connections through shared lived experience. The original aim was a youth conference but the project shifted once the Board Lead realized many youth did not know one another and needed a space to gather and build friendships first. The group shifted from social activities to being more focused on learning about Japanese culture, history and the arts. There were approximately 22 events held in 2025. See below. The group utilized the full budget provided by the JCLS grant.

Types of Events in 2024:

Coffee Meet Ups Japanese Dinner Meet Ups Potluck Events Shinto Shrine Visit JC History Mayne Island Tour Summer Picnic	Performances (Theatre, Cultural Shows, etc.) Yukata Dressing Workshop Sushi Making Class Art Gallery Kintsugi Exhibit SpinCo Fitness Class Sidney Museum Visit
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