



SAKURA SQUARE

Sakura Square Vision

The Sakura Square Strategic Planning Committee / Cultural Subcommittee are pleased to deliver the following Vision. This Vision has been guided by the following:

Sakura Foundation Mission:

Sustain the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple and celebrate Japanese-American heritage, culture and community.

Strategic Planning Committee Vision:

Sakura Square should serve as a gateway to downtown Denver, providing a vibrant community gathering place with businesses, residents and cultural organizations that celebrate the history of the Japanese-American experience and contribute to the long-term viability of the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple.

Cultural Subcommittee Guiding Principle:

Sakura Square should be a vibrant, destination venue. It includes the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, celebrates Sakura Square's Japanese-American cultural identity, and is a gathering and educational place for the greater community.

The Sakura Square Strategic Planning Committee / Cultural Subcommittee propose that this Vision be used by the Sakura Foundation and Sakura Square LLC in future management, planning, development and cultural programming at Sakura Square.

Sakura Square Vision:

1. The joint Strategic Planning Process conducted by the Sakura Foundation and Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple concluded that it is in the best interest of the Temple and Japanese-American community to maintain long term control over the redevelopment of the entire Sakura Square block and that future plans and actions should support that objective.

Sakura Square should continue to welcome and consider comments and suggestions from outside stakeholders in future development plans and cultural programming.

2. Plans and actions should support the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple in ways that are consistent with the Vision Statement of the Temple.

Create a positive environment to support future Temple growth by nurturing it in multiple ways. Collaborate with the Temple for shared community space and programming for classes, activities and for multiple generations to come together.

3. Plans and actions should support sustainability at Sakura Square, including:
 - a. Financial Sustainability - With sound risk management and tests of alternative development scenarios and financial outcomes under uncertain future conditions, the financial plan should include an appropriate mix of uses that produce meaningful financial results so that Sakura Square can thrive, not just survive.

Tamai Tower has played an important role in generating the revenues to support the maintenance and enhancement of Sakura Square. Therefore, appropriate consideration should be given as to the future role of Tamai Tower.

Include parking to support the on-site uses at Sakura Square including the Temple, residences, businesses and special events.

- b. Even cities with large Japanese-American populations have found that to generate sufficient revenue, it is important to reach out to other Asian cultures and to the general population. Given the need for participation and support from beyond the Japanese-American community, as well as the diverse population growth in the surrounding neighborhood, it will be important to attract the greater community beyond Japanese-Americans and the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple.

Lessons learned: be cautious about creating spaces that duplicate existing uses in the surrounding community, have limited potential demand and/or could be a financial drain, such as a large theater or auditorium. Be thoughtful about the scale, adaptability and rent-ability of spaces constructed. Be wary of large, single-purpose or limited-purpose construction projects that might become a financial drain.

- c. Cultural Sustainability - Promote programs, celebrations, festivals, classes and events to spread understanding about Japanese and Japanese-American culture to everyone with an interest. Activities should deepen understanding of the Japanese and Japanese-American culture among its generations.

Continue to support a Japanese / Asian grocery store for Japanese, Japanese-American, Asian and other customers, including the nurturing of Japanese cuisine.

Be open to including Japanese-themed retail businesses (such as restaurants, arts, health care, etc.) and quality Japanese-oriented office uses (such as Japanese government related, corporate, cultural and community organizations), while also welcoming cultural diversity.

Avoid lower quality uses; quality is more important than size.

Provide quality space to practice Japanese arts including dance, language, music, and martial arts so that these programs can continue to grow and are offered in harmony with Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple traditions and intentions.

Accommodate cultural uses, such as a museum and quality space to honor the history and legacy of Japanese-Americans and Japanese-American Culture in Colorado.

Recognize individuals who have made special contributions to Japanese-American history in Colorado such as Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai, Governor Ralph Carr, Mitchie Terasaki, Ellison Onizuka, Bill Hosokawa, Minoru Yasui and others.

Integrate Japanese-influenced design elements.

- d. Demographic Sustainability - Include activities to strengthen the interest and support of all Japanese-American generations, as well as the broader community. Youth and young adults are particularly significant.
- e. Environmental Sustainability - Redevelopment plans should incorporate energy and water efficient designs, utilize renewable materials and resources, and promote healthy indoor environments.
- f. Maintain a safe environment.