

CAROLINE KENNEDY

March 1, 2021

To the Portland Japanese Garden Community,

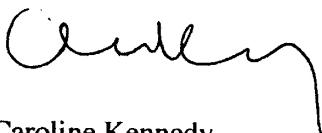
It gives me great pleasure to send a note of congratulations upon the opening of the documentary exhibition *The Gates of Hope: Connecting Cultures*, scheduled to take place at Portland Japanese Garden from April 24 through May 31. The retrospective marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami and devastating nuclear disaster that followed.

The exhibition is designed to take visitors through the incredible journey of the Torii gates (kasagi) that washed ashore the coast of Oregon some two years after the disasters, and to showcase the hope that was born of the efforts initiated by Portland Japanese Garden.

During my time as the United States Ambassador to Japan, I was honored to take part in the homecoming ceremony of the Gates in Yokohama in 2015, after nearly two years of search efforts by the Garden and many collaborators on both sides of the Pacific. I remember how inspired I was by the acts of kindness by Oregonians, Americans and their Japanese friends, who did all that was possible to return this deeply meaningful piece to the shores of Tohoku and to the people who have worshipped at the gates for generations. A decade later in the midst of a global pandemic, the exhibition is a reminder of the power of goodwill across cultures.

I commend all who have had role in this project, and I hope that those who visit The Gates of Hope can appreciate the shared compassion and empathy that made it possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Kennedy', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

Caroline Kennedy