



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: **Nora Strumpf**
202.638.8374
nstrumpf@ncbfdc.org

NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS INSPIRE CHILDREN

Washington, DC [March 1, 2017] – The National Cherry Blossom Festival’s youth education programs teach the importance of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, DC and inspire the next generation who will enjoy the nation’s greatest springtime celebration for years to come. Youth programs promote cross-cultural understanding, environmental stewardship, and international friendship, all messages surrounding the symbolic 1912 gift of trees.

The **Youth Art Contest** and **Community Art Show**, coordinated in partnership with the [DC Arts & Humanities Education Collaborative](#) is open to all DC public and charter school students in grades K-12. This year’s artwork will focus on kimonos and the cultural significance of their patterns. This year’s artwork will tell students’ “Springtime in DC” story – what they look forward to when spring rolls around and the cherry blossoms are in bloom – via symbols and icons, thinking of how to express their thoughts in the framework of a kimono pattern.

The public can view the students’ creativity at the Community Art Show at [Pepco Edison Place Gallery](#) from March 24 – April 7, Tuesdays through Fridays from noon until 4 p.m. A panel of judges selects a first, second, and third place winner in four grade categories. The Youth Art Contest and Community Art Show is supported by Pepco Edison Place Gallery, Blick Arts, and media partners WPGC 95.5 and El Zol 107.9.

New this year, the Festival has partnered with Waterfront Academy, a Montessori school in Southwest DC for several arts-based projects. The students will create blossom decorations for the Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival and will receive a presentation from the Festival’s Goodwill Ambassadors about the gift of trees and Japanese culture, along with an assembly by the performance stunt kite flyers of Team Island Quad.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival website engages children with its [Blossom Kids](#) section, which explores the festivities through educational and interactive games. Among the offerings, children learn fun facts about the history of the trees and the flowers’ life cycle, discover Japanese cultural symbols, play word games, and more.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation’s greatest springtime celebration. The 2017 Festival, March 15 – April 16, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information and find us on [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).

###