

Summary of Tokyo Cultural Resources District Vision

1. What is the Tokyo Cultural Resources District?

The Tokyo Cultural Resources District is the name for the area stretching from the northeast Tokyo neighborhoods of Yanesen and Negishi to Ueno, Hongo, Akihabara, Kanda, Jimbocho, and Yushima, all of which are concentrated in a walkable area less than two kilometers in radius.

The district is home to a concentration of cultural resources spanning history, from the feudal era through modern times to the present day. These cultural resources include the culture of everyday life found in Yanesen's landscape of old *machiya* homes and alleyways, the artistic culture of Ueno's museums and Tokyo University of the Arts, academic culture centered on the University of Tokyo in Hongo, popular culture on display in Akihabara's manga and anime industries, literary culture found in Jimbocho's old bookstores and publishing companies, and spiritual culture rooted in the traditions of Edo that are still visible at Yushima Tenjin Shrine, Yushima Seido and the Kanda festival.

The Tokyo Cultural Resources District was spared from large-scale redevelopment during the era of high economic growth, and maintains its value as a treasure trove of cultural resources within Tokyo. Today, the area holds new potential for an urban renaissance focused on culture, the environment, and tourism.

2. The significance of the Tokyo Cultural Resources District

Influence as a national and global model of urban policy

The Tokyo Cultural Resources District will become a global model that will influence not only the rest of Japan, but also global cities possessing cultural resources, as an important location showcasing both historical legacy and creativity through the use of cultural and knowledge resources. The vision aims to induce the following shifts in cultural strategy and redesign of urban space.

- Create new places, opportunities, and digital venues for the interaction of manufacturing, art and knowledge
- Develop creative local leaders through interactive and creative experiences crossing boundaries between public, private, academic and industry institutions
- Create and use an archive to store and curate local traditional and historical knowledge
- Establish an incubation center in the form of a public urban lab to facilitate interactions between art, industry, and community
- Uncover and visualize local cultural resources necessary for the initiatives above

3. Steps to implement the Tokyo Cultural Resources District vision

Making use of distinctive cultural resources (cultural program)

- Establish a project school: develop and employ specialists

capable of utilizing cultural resources to solve social problems

- Create an urban lab as a base for culture (art), industry and community
- Archive and digitize local cultural resources
- Hold a competition for renovating old buildings
- Spur a spiritual cultural renaissance centered on Yushima Seido through various activities
- Create a globally recognized rating system for food and restaurants that make use of Edo/Tokyo's culinary cultural tradition
- Develop circulator routes as a national model for cultural resource tourism

Investing in necessary infrastructure (urban environment program)

- Create walkable routes around the whole Tokyo Cultural Resources District and between Yushima Tenjin Shrine and Kanda Shrine
- Design pedestrian-friendly streets (bury electric cables, preserve water and greenery, increase street-side functions)
- Renovate and reuse the Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Garden
- Create accommodations for foreign students and tourists (including renovation of old hotels, temple lodging, and pensions in old houses)
- Undertake administrative reform: strengthen and relax regulations, reduce taxes on investment, create local currencies, support programs to preserve and use cultural resources such as traditional buildings
- Promote area management by cultivating and networking cultural leaders

Measures related to local distinctiveness (local program)

- Produce a variety of events aimed at revitalizing Jimbocho
- Preserve the area of Yanesen and Negishi, and utilize and network cultural resources
- Implement creative activities for a new hybrid culture in Akihabara
- Form a creative complex bringing together new creative professionals in Kanda

Tokyo Biennial as a compilation and ongoing event

The Tokyo Biennial is envisioned as a world-class event starting in 2020 and making use of local cultural resources, as a symbol of the Tokyo Cultural Resources District vision and the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The Tokyo Biennial will feature a combined total of 10,000 main, co-sponsored and related events, including international modern art exhibits from around 200 countries, a project school, a creative industry festival featuring around 100 countries, a Tokyo renovation competition, a Japanese food festival featuring 300 locales from around the country, and a revival of spiritual culture using academic and religious facilities and the restoration of Yushima Seido. The aim is to create a new model of Tokyo tourism, and to carry on a new legacy that will help to develop professionals, promote industry, create community, and foster international exchange.

