



Ryan Shaffer

President

Japan-America Society of Washington DC

Ryan Shaffer joined the Japan America Society of Washington DC as President in February of 2019. Japan-America Society of Washington DC serves as the anchor of civil society and Japanese cultural opportunities in the United States Capital Region. Mr. Shaffer has broad oversight over Japan-America Society of Washington DC's programs and activities, including the largest single-day Japanese cultural festival in the United States (Washington, D.C.'s Sakura Matsuri-Japanese Street Festival) and the United States national Japanese language and culture competition (the National Japan Bowl).

Mr. Shaffer previously served as Director of Programs and Development at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, where he was responsible for ensuring the effectiveness and consistency of policy programming in support of the Foundation's mission of enhancing relations between the U.S. and Asia. Mr. Shaffer also developed and managed many of the Foundation's policy programs, which included over thirty workshops in Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, the E.U., and throughout the U.S. Major programs under Mr. Shaffer's leadership included the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group and Regulatory Oversight Workshop, the U.S.-Japan Space Forum, the U.S.-Japan Cooperation on an Integrated Approach to Transportation dialogue, the Rule of Law in Asia program, and the Japan- U.S. Friendship Commission Thomas S. Foley Legislative Exchange. Mr. Shaffer is the editor of several Foundation publications, including the *U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group: Statement on Shared Strategic Priorities in the Aftermath of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident*. He has also authored a variety of articles examining the post-Fukushima nuclear energy situation in Japan.

Prior to joining the Mansfield Foundation, Mr. Shaffer served as a research analyst for the Washington office of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan. Mr. Shaffer, who was raised in Portland, Maine, has an MSc in Asian politics from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies and a BS in environmental policy from Bates College. Mr. Shaffer, a proud resident of the District of Columbia, sits on the Board of Directors of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Mr. Shaffer also serves as President of the Board of the Western Pacific Fellowship Project.