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**JAPAN SOCIETY ANNOUNCES GIFT FROM MERA FAMILY TO SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES AND GALLERY EXHIBITIONS**

**NEW YORK, NY** — Japan Society announced today that Yumi Kuwana, Yuhka Mera and Eiki Mera have established an endowment to honor their parents, creating the Masako Mera and Koichi Mera, PhD Fund for Education and the Arts. This new endowment furthers Japan Society's capacity in two very distinct areas: enabling a student exchange between the U.S. and Japan, and supporting Gallery exhibits.

"Japan Society prides itself on honoring the past and inspiring the future," said Joshua W. Walker, PhD, Japan Society President and CEO. "The Mera Endowment fortifies the Society's impact, further strengthening its foundation to support student exchange and inspire the next generation of leaders and artists."

The Masako Mera and Koichi Mera, PhD Fund for Education and the Arts will formally launch in 2022, with the selection of Junior Fellows, and planned exhibits with a focus on sculpture, a Mera family favorite.

**About Japan Society**

Japan Society is the premier organization connecting Japanese arts, culture, business, and society with audiences in New York and around the world. At Japan Society, we are inspired by the Japanese concept of *kizuna* (絆)—forging deep connections to bind people together. We are committed to telling the story of Japan while strengthening connections within New York City and building new bridges beyond. In over 100 years of work, we've inspired generations by establishing ourselves as pioneers in supporting international exchanges in arts and culture, business and policy, as well as education between Japan and the U.S. We strive to convene important conversations on topics that bind our two countries together, champion the next generation of innovative creators, promote mutual understanding, and serve as a trusted guide for people everywhere who seek to more fully appreciate the rich complexities and abundance of Japan. From our New York headquarters, a landmark building designed by architect Junzo Yoshimura that opened to the public in 1971, we look forward to the years ahead, which will be defined by our digital and ideational impact through the *kizuna* that we build. Our future can only be enhanced by learning from our peers and engaging with our audiences, both near and afar.

This year, Japan Society is celebrating our heritage through the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our landmark building with the launch of a new distinct modern logo and visual identity. The “JS” monogram is created via overlapping, interconnected lines and shapes, reinforcing the idea of *kizuna* and that Japan Society acts as a platform that connects across, cultures, people, and time.