

## Phase 1

# Regional Plan for Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan 2024 - 2029



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# 1 Introduction

## ◆ About the Regional Plan for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties in Yokohama City

Cultural properties are valuable assets born over a long history that have been preserved and passed down to the present day through the loving custodianship of local communities.

Japan's cultural properties include not only architectural structures such as shrines, temples, and traditional private residences, but also such things Buddhist statues, paintings, festivals, music, animals, and plants. Furthermore, they also include landscapes formed in conjunction with people's lives and archaeological sites buried in the ground. Cultural properties are indispensable for helping us gain a better understanding of a region's history and culture, and they form the foundation for the advancement of culture in the future.

The Regional Plan for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties in Yokohama City was established to **promote the preservation and utilization of cultural properties through collaboration among various stakeholders, with the aim of passing on Yokohama's rich history and culture to future generations.**

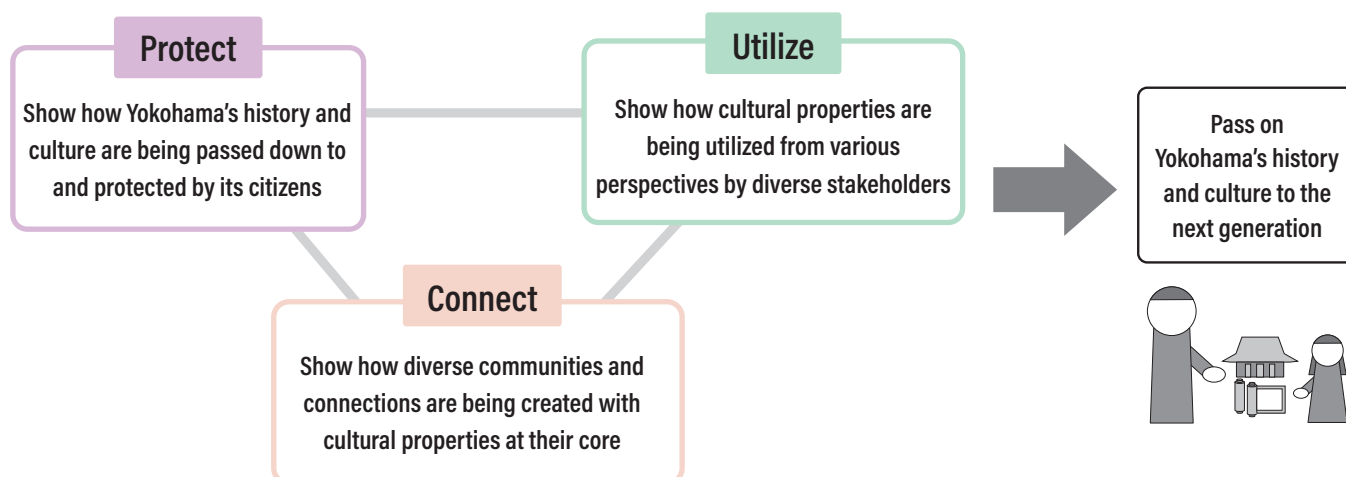


Yokohama City Port Opening Memorial Hall



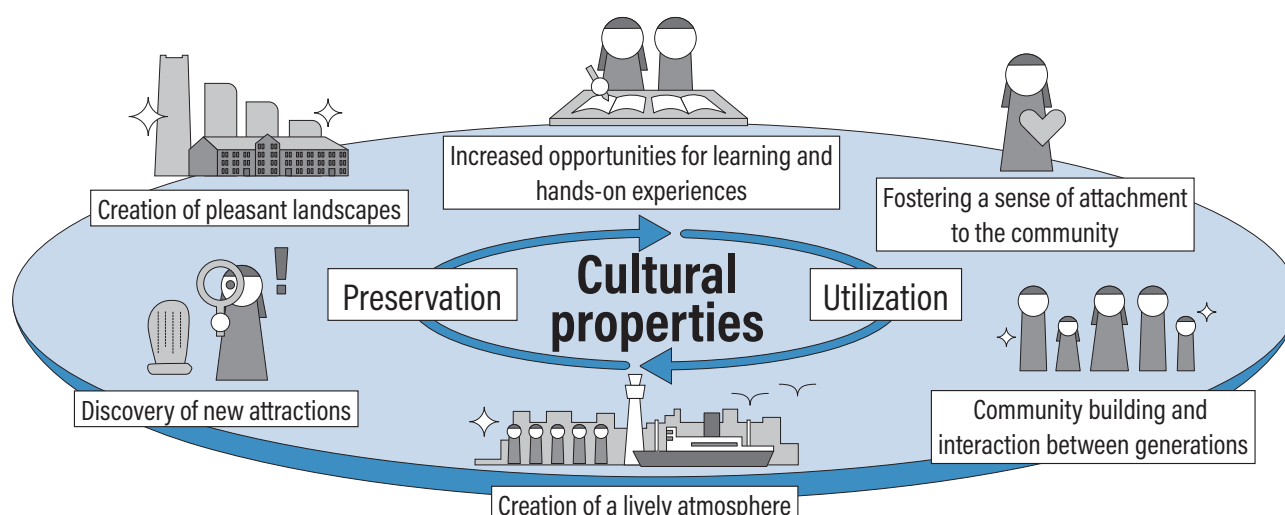
Ushigome no Shishi-mai lion dance

## ◆ Three Aspirations of This Plan



## ◆ Directions for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Preservation and utilization are not mutually exclusive; rather, they complement each other and create a virtuous cycle.



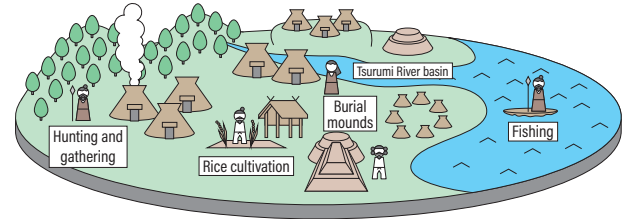
# 2 Characteristics of Yokohama's History and Culture

## ◆ Five Characteristics

Yokohama City has inherited a wealth of cultural properties dating back to prehistoric times onward. Its history as a center of modern civilization since its opening as a port has also shaped its unique cityscape. This section categorizes and organizes Yokohama's multi-layered historical and cultural characteristics that have accumulated and evolved over time into five distinct categories.

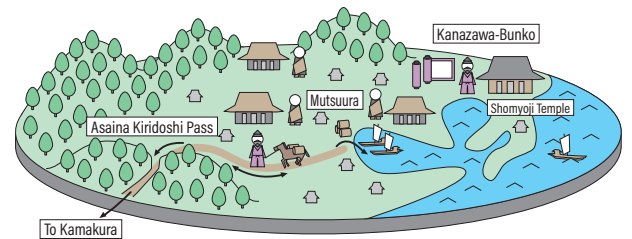
### 1 People in prehistoric and ancient times whose lives were connected to the sea and rivers

Yokohama's location facing Tokyo Bay and its extensive network of rivers meant that the sea and rivers were an integral part of life for the people who lived here in prehistoric and ancient times. The living environment underwent significant transformations—for example, a shifting coastline due to changes in climate and the start of rice cultivation—which in turn led to an evolution in human settlement patterns and lifestyles.



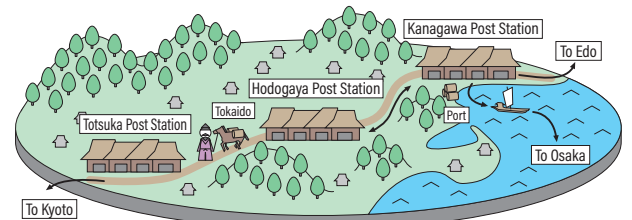
### 2 Spread of Kamakura culture amid the turmoil of war and regional reorganization

The establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate in 1185 led to the construction of many temples and shrines in the Mutsuura area (Kanazawa Ward), which became the outer port of Kamakura. Among these, Shomyoji Temple became a center of learning. During the Sengoku era, a period of civil war and social upheaval lasting from the middle of the 15th century to the early 17th century, the Odawara Hojo clan reorganized the region, and Kozukue Castle became one of their strongholds. Additionally, Kanagawa Port, facing the Tokaido Road, flourished, and various economic and cultural centers developed in the area over time.



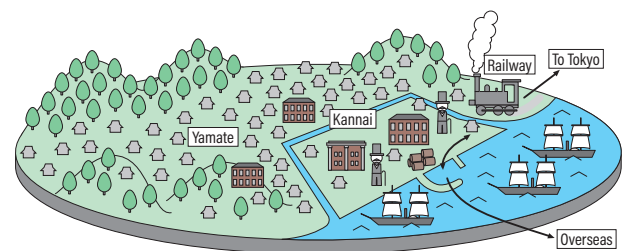
### 3 Gateway to Edo where land and sea routes intersect

During the Edo period (1603-1868), the Tokaido Road, a major highway connecting Edo and the Kansai region, passed through the area, and Kanagawa, Hodogaya and Totsuka post stations were established. In the late 18th century, when travel among common people became popular, the Kanazawa Hakkei, or the eight famous views of Kanazawa, flourished as scenic sightseeing spots<sup>\*1</sup>. In particular, Kanagawa was an important sea route to the Pacific Ocean and prospered as a port for maritime transport. As a crossroads between land and sea, it became a hub for the movement of people and goods, laying the foundation for Yokohama, which later became a port open to foreign trade at the end of the Edo period.



### 4 Internationalism and modernity beginning with the opening of the port

With the opening of the Port of Yokohama at the end of the Edo period, people from across Japan and other parts of the world settled in the area, and numerous technologies and cultures arrived from overseas. In addition, a flourishing export industry for souvenirs and handicrafts for foreign visitors sprang up. Yokohama became a gateway for the exchange of people, goods, and information, and developed into an international trading city.



### 5 Life in the valleys and by the sea

Urbanization and changes in lifestyle have greatly altered the way of life that once existed in the surrounding valleys and coastal areas, where people lived in harmony with nature. However, each region continues to hold the same time-honored festivals and rituals to pray for bountiful harvests and good fishing, as well as to ward off misfortune. Visitors can still catch glimpses of this way of life through various tangible and intangible cultural properties, such as traditional houses, stone structures, festivals, and performing arts, as well as the rural landscapes of fields and valleys.

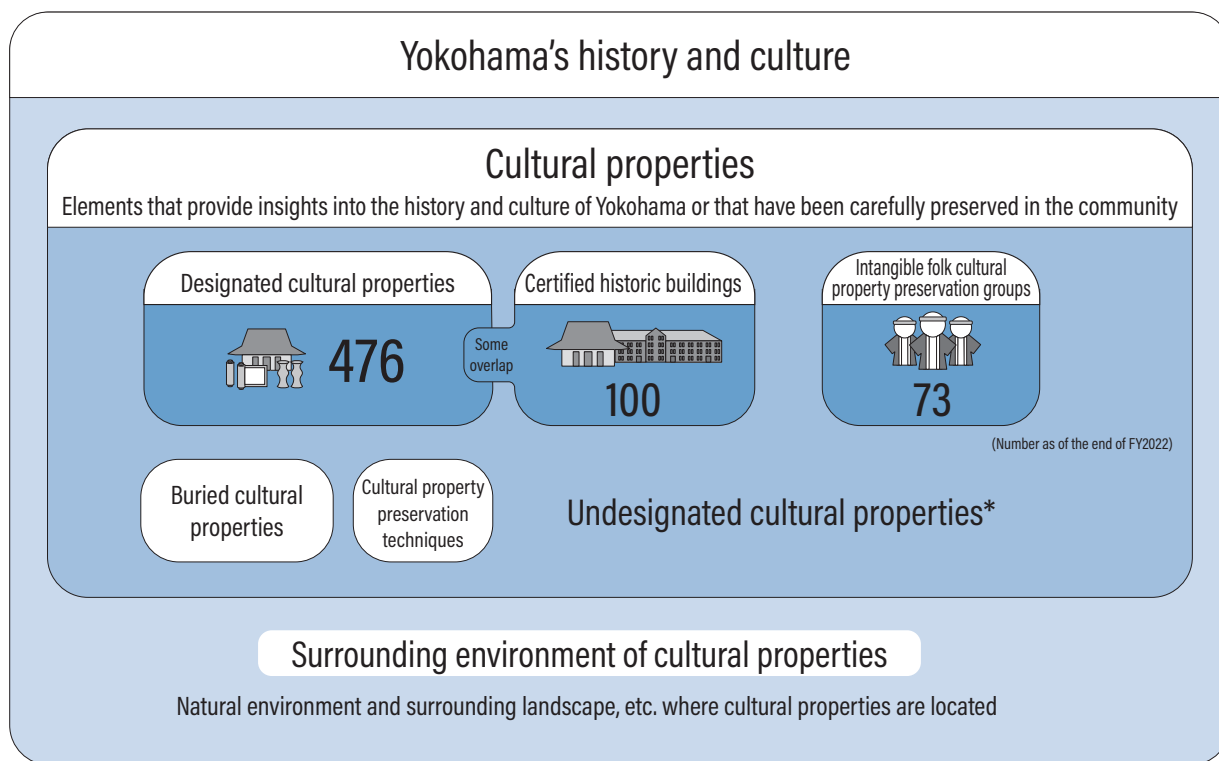


<sup>\*1</sup> Scenic sightseeing spots: Areas with beautiful scenery or landscapes that are ideal for sightseeing.

# 3 Scope and Promotion System

## ◆ Cultural Properties and History and Culture in This Plan

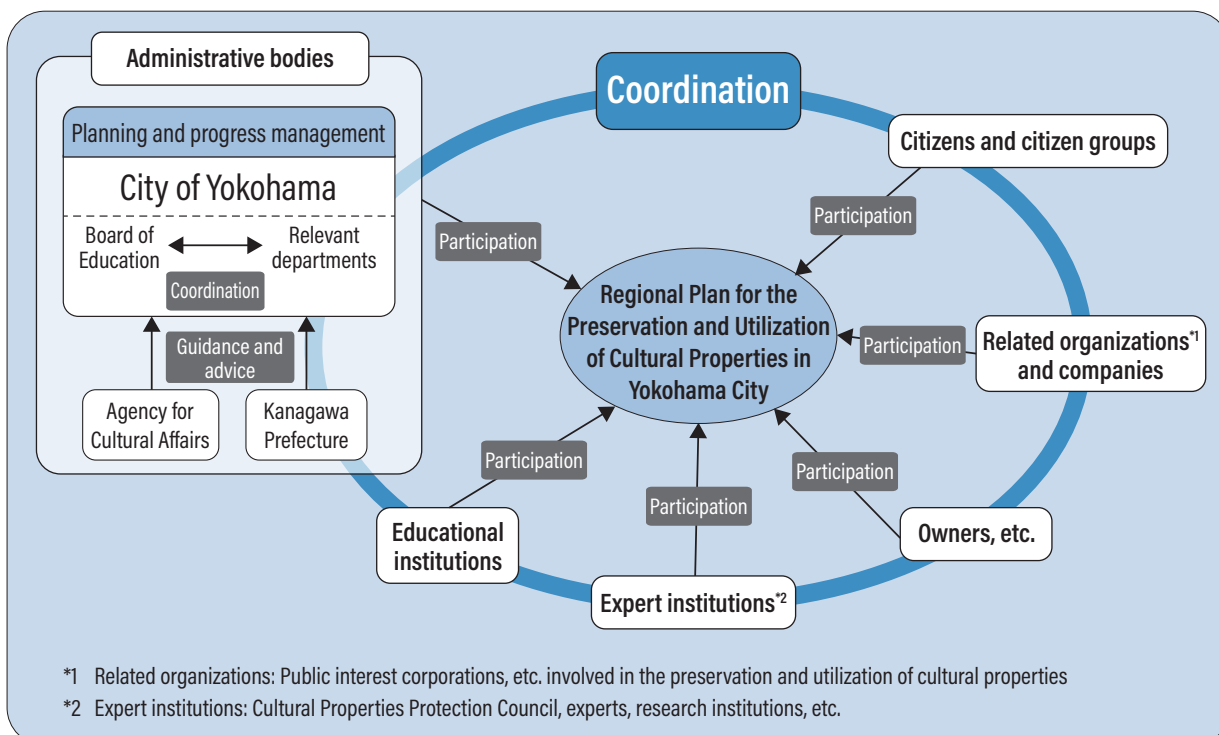
This plan defines “cultural properties” as elements that provide insights into the history and culture of Yokohama or that have been carefully preserved in the community. It also defines “history and culture” as cultural properties and their surrounding environment, as well as various elements related to cultural properties, taken as a whole.



\*Undesignated cultural properties: Elements that have been identified and organized through surveys, etc., but which have not been designated or registered

## ◆ Promotion System

The Board of Education, which is responsible for the protection of cultural properties, works to implement measures in a coordinated manner in cooperation with the relevant departments within the City of Yokohama government, with the active participation of owners, citizens, related organizations, expert institutions, and other stakeholders.



# 4 Current Situation and Issues

## ◆ Organization of Issues to be Addressed in Achieving the Three Aspirations of This Plan

In addition to government agencies, various other stakeholders have been engaged in efforts to preserve and utilize cultural properties. However, changes in social conditions, such as Japan's aging population, natural disasters, and outbreaks of infectious diseases, have given rise to various challenges, including a shortage of human resources and funding. These challenges cannot be resolved by government agencies or property owners and managers alone. It is necessary for various stakeholders to share these challenges and work together more closely than ever before.

Issues related to

### Protect

- Need to conduct ongoing surveys and additional surveys of cultural properties
- Need to conduct ongoing surveys of buried cultural properties
- Need to provide support to owners and managers of cultural properties
- Need to put in place disaster prevention measures against fires, wind and flood damage, etc.
- Need to ensure appropriate storage and management of cultural properties

Issues related to

### Utilize

- Need to promote understanding of cultural properties and utilize them in a manner that respects their value
- Need to create opportunities for people to experience and develop a fondness for cultural properties

Issues related to

### Connect

- Need to disseminate information more effectively
- Need to nurture new people to take on the role of protecting cultural properties
- Need to establish mutual cooperation and coordination

## COLUMN

### Systems Unique to Yokohama City

- **Certification system for organizations engaged in the protection of intangible folk cultural properties (since 1977)**
  - ✓ Selection of organizations that are committed to preserving and passing on folk performing arts with ties to the community, including the training of successors
- **Simultaneous enforcement of the Yokohama City Cultural Properties Protection Ordinance and the Guidelines for the Development of Urban Communities That Make the Most of History (since 1988)**
  - ✓ Establishment of a dual system combining protection (preservation and utilization) as cultural properties, and conservation and utilization that balances preservation with utilization
  - ✓ Introduction of a registration system for regional cultural properties, which provides broader protection through flexible regulations in addition to the designation system for cultural properties
- **Yokohama City Urban Landscape System (since 2006)**
  - ✓ Establishment of the Urban Landscape Consultation Area system based on the Landscape Ordinance
  - ✓ Formation of an attractive urban landscape that values historical landscapes



A performance of traditional music by a group involved in the protection of intangible folk cultural properties



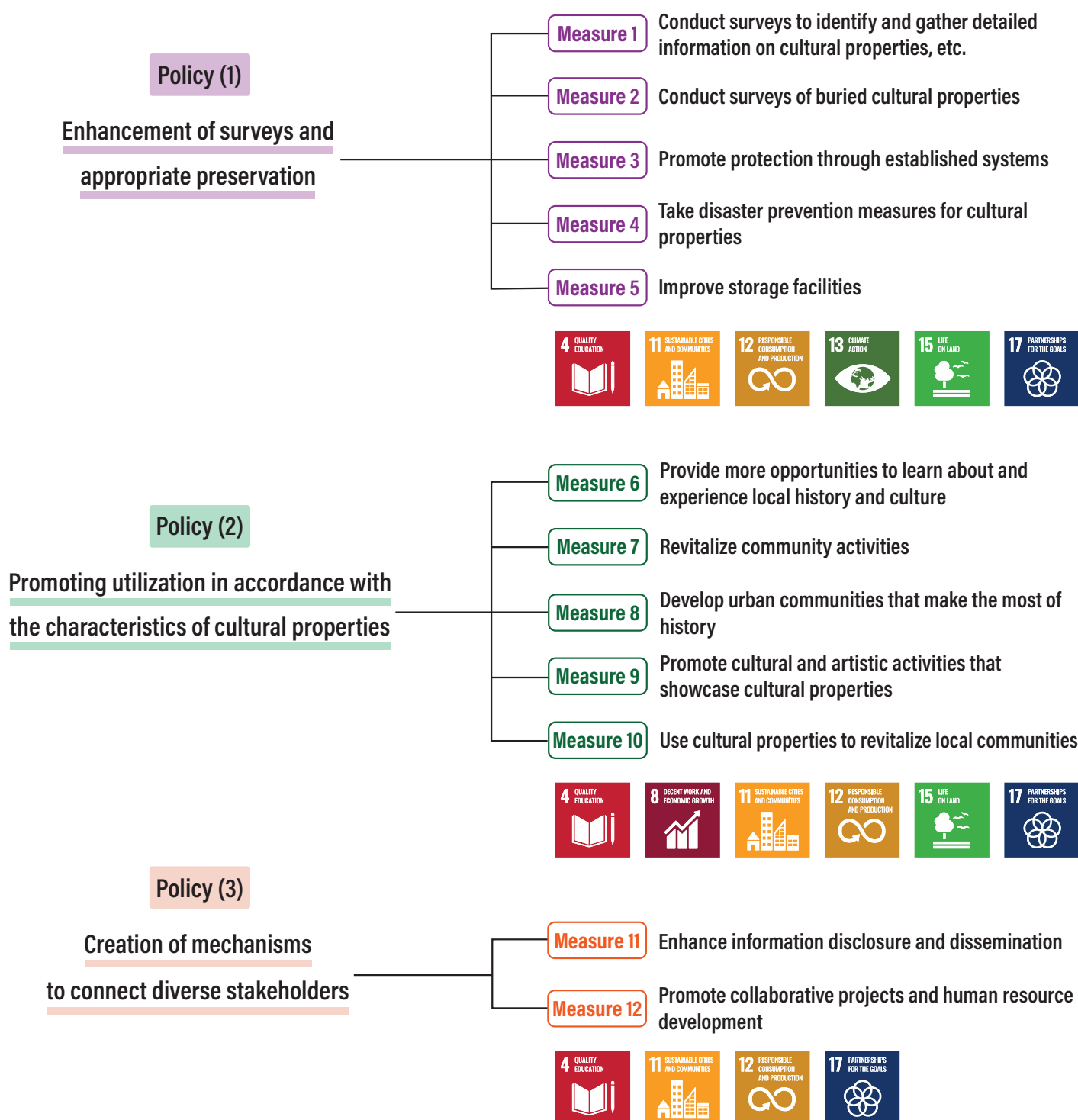
Red Brick Warehouse  
(Yokohama City Designated Historical Building)

# 5 Measures to be Addressed in This Plan

## ◆ Policies and Measures

This plan outlines three policies and 12 measures to promote the preservation and utilization of cultural properties in collaboration with their owners and managers, related organizations, private companies, and citizens. These measures will be implemented from a medium- to long-term perspective as part of Yokohama's efforts to pass on the history and culture that it has inherited to future generations. In addition, in keeping with the basic principles of the SDGs, the implementation of these policies and measures will be tied in with efforts in various other fields, such as education, community development, and tourism.

The initiatives outlined in this plan are also aligned with the Yokohama Medium-term Plan for 2022 to 2025 and the Fourth Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, and will be linked to efforts to ensure that Yokohama makes the most of its history and creativity and does its utmost to provide its citizens with opportunities for rich learning experiences.



## ◆ Measures and Indicators (Main Indicators: Baseline → Target)

### Measure 1

#### Conduct surveys to identify and gather detailed information on cultural properties, etc.

Yokohama will work with experts, universities, museums, and other organizations to conduct ongoing surveys aimed at identifying and gathering detailed information on cultural properties, and will conduct periodic surveys to confirm the current status of designated cultural properties.



#### Main indicator

Number of surveys to identify and gather detailed information on cultural properties, etc. (annual)

FY2022 FY2029  
7 → 10

### Measure 2

#### Conduct surveys of buried cultural properties

Yokohama will conduct surveys of buried cultural properties with the full understanding of developers and citizens. It will then sort the excavated finds from these surveys and prepare reports. In addition, Yokohama will promote understanding by making use of guidelines to ensure that buried cultural properties are handled appropriately.



#### Main indicator

Number of trial excavations conducted in connection with civil engineering works, etc. (annual)

FY2022 FY2029  
13 → 36

### Measure 3

#### Promote protection through established systems

In accordance with laws and regulations, Yokohama will work to designate, register, and certify cultural properties, and provide support to owners and other parties necessary for repair and maintenance. It will also take steps to secure additional financial resources for these activities.



Photo courtesy of Bijyutsuin

#### Main indicator

Number of designated and registered cultural properties

FY2022 FY2029  
476 → 487

### Measure 4

#### Take disaster prevention measures for cultural properties

Yokohama will take measures to prevent fires through disaster drills and other activities aimed at safeguarding designated and registered cultural properties within the city, and will implement safety measures for steep slopes within historic sites while taking their value into consideration.



#### Main indicator

Number of annual safety measures initiated for steep slopes at historic sites, etc.

FY2022 FY2029  
5 → 5

### Measure 5

#### Improve storage facilities

Yokohama will continue its efforts to collect and research materials at museums and preserve them for future generations. To this end, it will improve facilities to ensure that collections are stored in appropriate conditions.



#### Main indicator

Acquisition of new storage facilities for excavated cultural properties

### Measure 6

#### Provide more opportunities to learn about and experience local history and culture

Yokohama will present its history and culture in an easy-to-understand manner and strive to provide opportunities for hands-on experiences and learning. In addition, it will consider revamping museum\* exhibits to enrich them as places of learning for citizens and children.



#### Main indicator

Number of people attending classes from visiting teachers involved with cultural properties (annual)

FY2022 FY2029  
12,000 → 13,000

\*Museums: Yokohama History Museum, Yokohama City Port Opening Memorial Hall, and other museums administered by the Board of Education

**Measure 7****Revitalize community activities**

Yokohama will work in coordination with local organizations to utilize cultural properties in the region, revitalize community activities, promote understanding of cultural properties, and foster a sense of attachment to the region.

**Main indicator**

Promotion of community activities utilizing cultural properties

**Measure 8****Develop urban communities that make the most of history**

Through the preservation and utilization of historic buildings, Yokohama will leverage its unique history and culture to enhance the city's individuality and appeal, ensuring that its history and culture are passed on to future generations as an integral part of the city's memory.

**Main indicator**

Formulation of plans for the maintenance and improvement of historical landscapes

**Measure 9****Promote cultural and artistic activities that showcase cultural properties**

Yokohama will make use of cultural properties, museums, and other sites as venues for appreciating, experiencing, and performing culture and the arts, thereby creating opportunities for people to become familiar with history and culture.

**Main indicator**

Number of cultural and artistic activities held annually in historical parks, etc.

FY2022 FY2029  
20 → 26

**Measure 10****Use cultural properties to revitalize local communities**

Yokohama will promote the use of its cultural properties as tourist attractions and enhance their functions as cultural tourism hubs, thereby attracting visitors from Japan and around the world and creating a vibrant atmosphere.

**Main indicator**

Annual number of visitors to Nippon Maru Memorial Park

FY2022 FY2029  
450,000 → 500,000

**Measure 11****Enhance information disclosure and dissemination**

Yokohama will work to further digitize its museum collections and disseminate information on Yokohama's history and culture, creating an accessible environment where anyone can find the information they need.

**Main indicator**

Number of cultural properties registered and published on Cultural Heritage Online

100

**Measure 12****Promote collaborative projects and human resource development**

Yokohama will promote collaborative projects related to the preservation and utilization of cultural properties, and will aim to develop human resources and build networks related to these projects.

**Main indicator**

Number of annual collaborative projects between Yokohama History Museum and wards/communities

FY2022 FY2029  
11 → 14

# 6 Groups of Related Cultural Properties

## ◆ Cultural Properties Forming Nine Separate Stories

These groups of diverse related cultural properties are spread across Yokohama City, and are grouped together according to their historical and cultural characteristics and organized into stories. This plan sets out nine stories to convey the appeal and value of Yokohama's history and culture in an easy-to-understand manner and promote awareness of cultural properties.

### (1) People in prehistoric and ancient times whose lives were connected to the sea and rivers



Yokohama's location facing Tokyo Bay and its extensive network of rivers meant that the sea and rivers were an integral part of life for the people who lived here in prehistoric and ancient times. Numerous archaeological sites uncovered in Yokohama attest to the fact that the living environment underwent significant transformations—for example, a shifting coastline due to changes in climate and the start of rice cultivation—which in turn led to an evolution in human settlement patterns and lifestyles. Settlements at Santonodai Site and Otsuka-Saikachido Site have been reconstructed to show what they looked like at the time.



Reconstructed buildings at Otsuka Site



Ichigao Cave Tomb Cluster

#### ● Other cultural properties

Santonodai Site, Nojima Shell Midden, Mitsuzawa Shell Midden, Inarimae Kofun Cluster, etc.

### (2) Trade, transportation, and culture in samurai society



From the 12th to the 19th centuries, the area of what is now Yokohama City was always located close to the center of politics and economy in samurai society. Many people and goods passed through the region's ports and highways, which led to the development of the economy, culture, and other aspects of life.



Grounds of Shomyoji Temple



Kozukue Castle Site

#### ● Other cultural properties

Asaina Kiridoshi Pass, sacred documents of Shomyoji Temple, Kanazawa Bunko Library, Chigasaki Castle Site, Shinano Milestone, etc.

### (3) The opening of the port of Yokohama—The history of an international trading port—



Yokohama Village, the site of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States, underwent rapid development as an international trading port at the end of the Edo period with the opening of the Port of Yokohama. This port became Japan's gateway to the world, with people, goods, and cultures from all over the world flowing in and out. Cultures from overseas were introduced to Japan right here in Yokohama, and souvenirs and crafts such as School of Yokohama photographs and Yokohama ware ceramics, represented by Makuzu ware, were exported overseas.



Place where the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States was signed

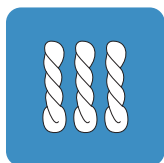


Makuzu ware

#### ● Other cultural properties

Camphor tree, Kanagawa Prefectural Office, Red Brick Warehouse, Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall, Former Nagahama Quarantine Station No. 1 Station, etc.

### (4) Prosperity brought by silk



After the opening of the Port of Yokohama, raw silk became the lifeblood of the city's export industry throughout the Meiji period (1868-1912), and sericulture and silk production flourished in the surrounding rural areas.

The raw silk trade was a major driving force behind Yokohama's development, enabling wealthy industrialists who had made their money through silk to gain influence in the city's political, economic, and cultural spheres.



Sankeien Garden



Former Yokohama Raw Silk Inspection Center Warehouse and Office

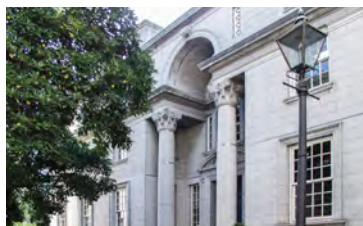
#### ● Other cultural properties

Rinshunkaku, Former Shimizu Silk Mill Main Building, stone monument dedicated to the spirits of silkworms, etc.

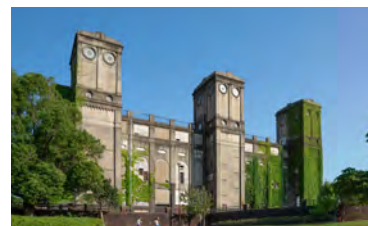
## (5) Cosmopolitan city—A crossroads of cultures—



With the opening of the Port of Yokohama, many people from across Japan and other parts of the world settled in the area. The city's foreign settlement was lined with trading houses from various countries, and the Yamate area developed as a residential district for foreign residents. As a result, arts and culture from overseas often made their first appearance in Japan in Yokohama, from where they spread to other parts of the country.



Former Yokohama City Port Opening Memorial Hall building

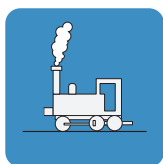


First-class Horse Viewing Stand of the former Negishi Racecourse

### ● Other cultural properties

Yamate Park, Bluff No. 18, Jizo-Oh's Mausoleum, birthplace of beer brewing, etc.

## (6) Infrastructure that supported a modern city



Nihon-odori Street and Yokohama Park were created as part of the shogunate's plan to redevelop foreign settlements. Other innovations that took place in Yokohama included Japan's first railway and modern waterworks, as well as bricks and Western-style roof tiles manufactured and sold by French businessman Alfred Gérard. These were all examples of modern technology being introduced in Yokohama ahead of other cities in Japan.



Nihon-odori Street



Nishiya Water Treatment Plant Filtration Pool  
Water Treatment Room Storeroom No. 3, etc.

### ● Other cultural properties

Yokohama Park, site of Japan's first gas company, foundations of the second Yokohama Station, etc.

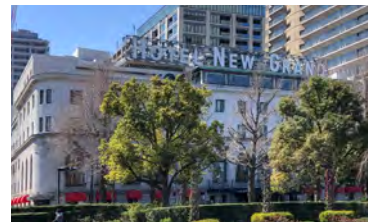
## (7) A city that rose from the ashes twice



Yokohama has overcome two major disasters to develop into the city that it is today. The framework for the city was established through various reconstruction projects in the aftermath of the Great Kanto Earthquake. After World War II, reconstruction of the city was greatly delayed due to the occupation by Allied forces, but gradually resumed, and firebreak zones and public facilities were developed.



Yamashita Park



Hotel New Grand Main Building

### ● Other cultural properties

Bridges constructed as part of earthquake reconstruction, Kanagawa Prefectural Library and Music Hall, Noge Miyakobashi Bridge Shopping Street Building, etc.

## (8) Yokohama's original rural landscape



Yokohama City has valleys where agriculture has been practiced since ancient times, creating an environment where a variety of creatures live and thrive. Natural environments between Japan's mountain foothills and arable land, where people and nature coexist, are called "satoyama." These serve as valuable environments that convey the history and culture of Yokohama.

Old houses and household items from the past also give insights into life in those days.



Tokyo bitterling



Former Yokomizo Residence

### ● Other cultural properties

Jike Furusato Village, Genji fireflies at Kodomo Nature Park and their habitat, etc.

## (9) Festivals and traditional events nurtured by communities



Yokohama is home to a variety of festivals and traditional events where people pray to the gods and Buddhas for bountiful harvests, abundant fishing, and protection from misfortune. This reverence for the gods and Buddhas that has been passed down through the ages has helped preserve the natural environment around shrines and temples, as evidenced by the many ancient trees and groves that remain in the city.



Gion boats



Kanazawa Hakkei Mt. Oiseyama/  
Mt. Gongensan forest

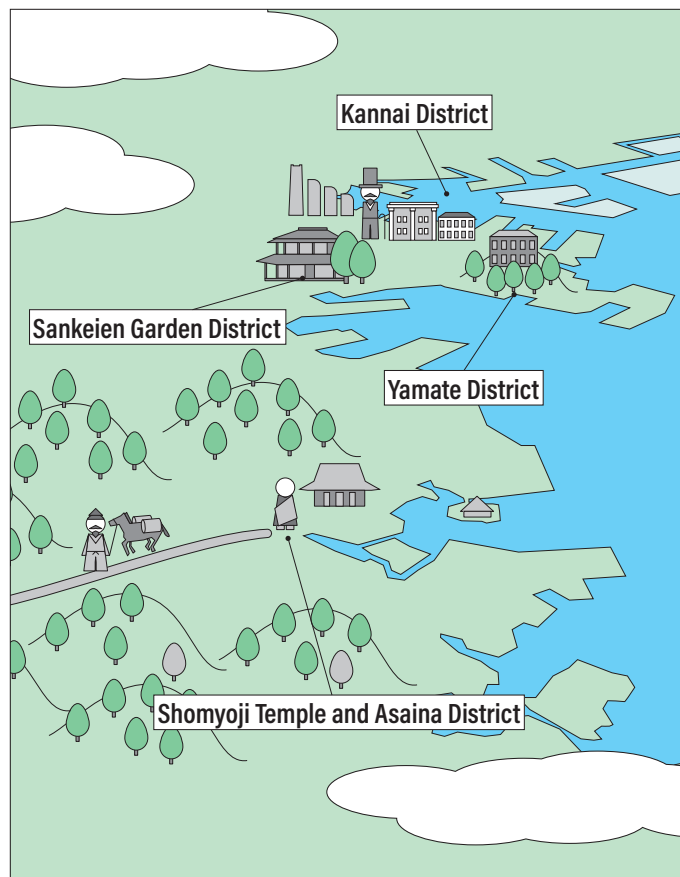
### ● Other cultural properties

Jamokamo Festival, Tsurumi Rice Field Festival, Ofudamaki (strewing paper charms), Ouma Nagashi Festival, Kasuga Shrine's sacred forest, etc.

# 7 Cultural Property Preservation and Utilization Districts

## ◆ Preservation and Utilization According to the Characteristics of Each District

Cultural Property Preservation and Utilization Districts are areas that have a concentration of cultural properties and, together with their surrounding environment, create cultural spaces centered on those cultural properties. This plan designates four such districts, and efforts will be made to advance initiatives through collaboration between cultural property owners, citizens, and government agencies within those areas.



### Kannai District

The Kannai District is the core area where the Port of Yokohama was established under the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States. To maintain security around the port, the area was surrounded by rivers and canals, and gates were installed on the bridges, leading to the name “Kannai” (meaning “inside the gates”). With the opening of the port during the late Edo period, this area became the hub of modern Japan’s economy and distribution. It has overcome many hardships, including earthquakes and war damage, and is home to many buildings that tell the story of its history. Today, it is a vibrant area where government offices are located, while at the same time maintaining its beautiful landscape.

### Yamate District

The Yamate District was originally established as a foreign settlement in 1867. Located on a hillside overlooking the port and city, it was developed as a residential area for foreign residents, creating a townscape with a cosmopolitan atmosphere. With its slopes, parks, hedges along the sidewalks, and many remaining green spaces, as well as the historic buildings that still stand today, the district conveys the lifestyle of its former residents and forms a historic streetscape.

### Sankeien Garden District

Sankeien Garden was created by Hara Tomitaro (Sankei), who amassed a fortune through the silk industry and raw silk trade, and built this garden out of his own pocket in the valley of Honmoku. Covering an area of approximately 175,000 square meters, it is an important example of how a single industrialist worked to preserve cultural properties. Tomitaro designed and arranged the garden’s structures, including historical buildings relocated from Kyoto and other regions, with careful consideration for the natural topography of the land and the harmonious integration of the garden’s landscape. Many of the structures within the garden are designated as National Important Cultural Properties or Yokohama City Designated Cultural Properties, and the garden itself has been designated as a National Place of Scenic Beauty for its outstanding landscape value.

### Shomyoji Temple and Asaina District

The Shomyoji Temple and Asaina District was once part of Kamakura, the political and cultural center of medieval eastern Japan. Shomyoji Temple, founded by Hojo Sanetoki, was the family temple of the Kanesawa Hojo clan and was developed into a vast temple complex with seven main halls and a Pure Land garden. Together with the Kanazawa Bunko Library, a collection of books on history, literature, and religion compiled by Sanetoki, it became a center of learning and culture and houses many National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. Furthermore, the Asaina Kiridoshi Pass was constructed to transport goods to the city of Kamakura from Mutsuranotsu, the outer port of Kamakura and a hub for the distribution of goods. This pass played a crucial role as an important infrastructure supporting the city of Kamakura.

明日をひらく都市

OPEN × PIONEER

横浜市

Regional Plan for the Preservation and  
Utilization of Cultural Properties in Yokohama City

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