

# Cultural properties inheritance plan for a better future

## -Kyoto City Regional Plan for the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Properties-

2021



2030

### Overview



# Background and purpose of creating the Regional Plan for the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Properties

Kyoto, a historical city, has many tangible and intangible cultural properties that are preserved and passed on through the efforts of many citizens, including their owners.

However, the ways of maintaining and handing down cultural properties have undergone transition along with social changes, including declining population and more tenuous relationships in local communities, which are deeply related to the shortage of supporters of cultural property preservation.

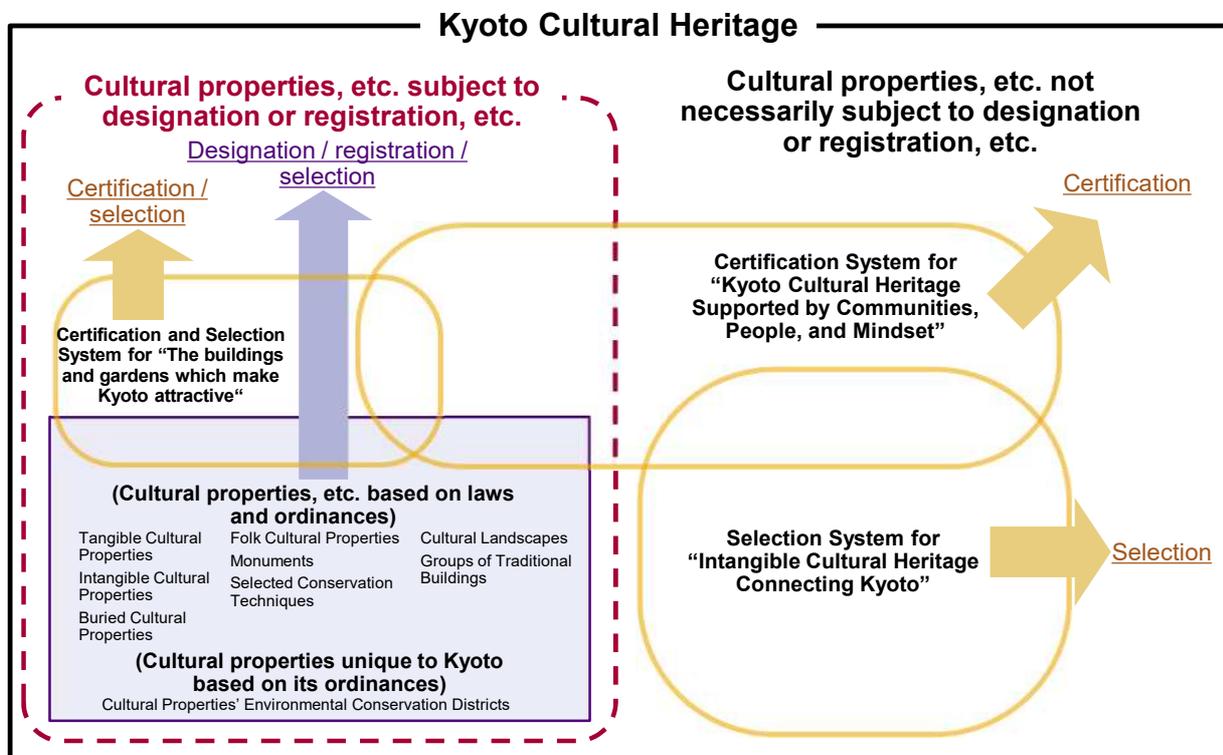
In April 2019, the revised Cultural Properties Protection Law, which included the creation of the Regional Plan for the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Properties, was enacted. In response to the revision, this plan is devised to maintain cultural properties for many years to come and hand them down to future generations, regardless of their designation, in cooperation with various stakeholders.

## Targeted period

The targeted period of the plan is **10 years from FY2021 to FY2030**.

## What is Kyoto Cultural Heritage?

This plan is designed to maintain and hand down all tangible and intangible assets that are essential for understanding the life, history, and culture of the people of Kyoto, not limited to those preserved under the Cultural Properties Protection Law or the Kyoto City Cultural Properties Protection Ordinance, by regarding them as Kyoto Cultural Heritage.



# Outlines of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

Since new culture has constantly been developed in Kyoto, each community has an important Kyoto Cultural Heritage, which conveys the history and culture of each era from ancient times to the present.

## Temples and shrines, housing units such as *machiya* and private houses, gardens, and modern buildings

There are many buildings and other properties related to a wide variety of cultural supporters, including the Imperial Household, *samurai* warriors, temples and shrines, and artisans and merchants.



The garden of Joju-ji Temple (Nishikyo Ward, designated by Kyoto City)



Shichijo Bridge (Higashiyama Ward / Shimogyo Ward, registered by the national government)

## Natural environment maintained from ancient times

The Kyoto Basin is said to have been a lake tens of thousands of years ago, and boasts a natural heritage, including mountains and ponds, from ancient times.



Biocoenosis in Midorogaike Pond (Kita Ward, nationally designated Natural Monument)

## Historical landscapes rooted in the local natural environment and people's lives

Kyoto has historical landscapes formed by its climate that is deeply linked to the natural environment, and people's lives and their livelihoods.



Cultural landscape in the Okazaki area, Kyoto (Sakyo Ward, Important Cultural Landscape)

## Treasures and ancient documents handed down in temples and shrines, and old families

There are many historical materials preserved, such as various kinds of treasures and ancient documents, including Buddhist artifacts, genre paintings, tea ceremony utensils, and lacquer ware.



Overglaze enameled hexagonal vase with peony arabesque openwork and a design of interlocking circles, preserved in Yoshimine Temple (designated by Kyoto City) Photo courtesy of Yoshimine Temple

## Historical materials such as industrial heritage and folk utensils handed down in local communities

Historical materials related to life, industry, etc. are handed down in each area.



Rolling stock of Kyoto City tram (Umekoji Park) Photo courtesy of Kyoto City Greenery Association



The first domestically produced jacquard machine 200 hooks, made by Kohei Araki (designated by Kyoto City) Photo courtesy of General Incorporated Foundation Nishijin Textile Museum

## Buried Cultural Properties of various periods

Many valuable Buried Cultural Properties of various periods have been excavated.



Earthenware with human faces, horse-shaped clay dolls, and clay ovens, excavated in Yodomezutare-cho

## Festivals and folk performing art

Festivals and folk performing art are inherited in each area of the city, and some kinds of events are held throughout the year.



Jizo-bon festival

## Lifestyle-related culture and livelihoods and the skills of the craftsmen that support it

There are various types of lifestyle-related culture, including performing art (Japanese dance, Noh, etc.), crafts (Nishijin textile, Kyo ware, Kiyomizu ware, etc.), tea ceremony, Japanese flower arrangement, incense-smelling ceremonies, and food culture.



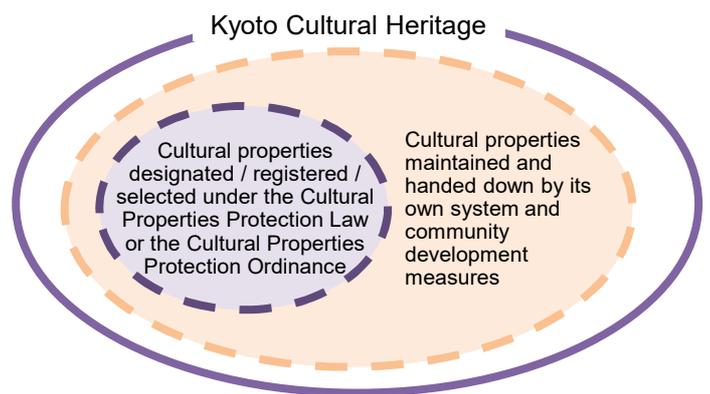
Tea ceremony (the first tea ceremony of the year)



Food culture in Kyoto supported by various people and things

## Past efforts made for the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

Efforts made by Kyoto City to maintain and hand down Kyoto Cultural Heritage are characterized by its approach: we have made such efforts with the participation of many citizens, setting up its own systems beyond the framework of the Cultural Properties Protection Law and the Kyoto City Cultural Properties Protection Ordinance, and incorporating community development measures, such as the designation of Structures of Landscape Importance and Structures Composing Historical Scenic Beauty, and the conservation of townscapes in surrounding areas.



[Examples of the system for the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage]

### The buildings and gardens which make Kyoto attractive (created in November 2011)

Under this system, Kyoto City publicly seeks the recommendation of buildings and gardens that its citizens wish to preserve as cultural assets of Kyoto. The recommended assets are "selected" by the city, and among them, the most valuable ones are "certified" with the aim of securing their maintenance and inheritance.

As of March 2021, 525 cases have been selected, of which 178 have been certified.



[Certification] Kamiyagawa Garden (Kita Ward)



[Selection] JR Inari Station Lamp Museum (shed) (Fushimi Ward)

### Intangible Cultural Heritage Connecting Kyoto (created in April 2013)

This system is aimed at creating momentum toward preserving intangible cultural heritage handed down over the generations in people's lives by rediscovering and recognizing their value. Under this system, Kyoto City independently selects cultural assets that are difficult to designate or register under current laws or ordinances.

As of March 2021, six cases have been selected.



Jizo-bon festival in Kyoto  
(Illustration: Rina Matsudaira)



Culture of *kagai* (geisha) districts in Kyoto

- Food culture in Kyoto
- Culture of *kagai* (geisha) districts in Kyoto
- Jizo-bon* festival in Kyoto
- Kimono culture in Kyoto
- Confectionery culture in Kyoto
- Annual events in Kyoto

### Kyoto Cultural Heritage Supported by Communities, People and Mindset (created in January 2016)

Under this system, Kyoto City decides a theme based on the local communities in Kyoto ("communities"), craftsmanship ("people"), spirit ("mindset"), etc., and certifies a cultural asset as an aggregation related to the theme.

As of March 2021, 10 cases have been certified.

- Traditional culture created and developed in the Kitano and Nishijin areas
- Garden culture fostered in the millennium city of scenic beauty
- Faith in the god of fire and fire festivals passed down over the generations
- Steps toward modernization in the Meiji Era
- Water-related culture in the millennium city
- Kyo-machiya* private house and its lifestyle-related culture
- The elegance of the Heian Court that still lives on
- Mountains and greenery nurturing the millennium city
- Fushimi, a port town connecting Kyoto with Osaka
- Communities supporting business in Kyoto and the Gion Festival

## Characteristics of the history and culture of Kyoto City

The history and culture of Kyoto City comprises a rich natural environment and a wide variety of Kyoto Cultural Heritage, such as living spaces and a collection of cultural heritages created based on a history and culture of more than 1,000 years, and culture, events, art, religion developed by the local people. Its characteristics lie in “regional,” “capital,” “international,” and “symbolic” features. They are associable with the historical city of Kyoto, and at the same time, give universal value to the city itself.

### Regional feature

#### **Living in diverse communities fostered in a rich natural environment**

Heian-kyo, a city surrounded by natural scenic beauty, has extended north, east and west beyond its original boundaries, expanding along with its urbanization. Kyogai / Rakugai (the area outside of Heian-kyo), and Kyochu / Rakuchu (the area inside Heian-kyo) are related to each other, sometimes integrally or complementarily. They have developed as Kyoto, maintaining their mutual relationships. In the surrounding area of the Kyoto Basin blessed with a rich natural environment are scattered agricultural mountain villages. They have coexisted with Kyoto from the time of Heian-kyo, in a relationship of mutual support. Urban towns and rural villages, and people living in diverse areas and communities in Kyoto convey to us the attractive local history and culture.

### Capital feature

#### **The “city of flowers,” the “city of eternity”**

Since Kyoto was the capital for more than a thousand years, its historical urban area has been an advanced center of politics, economy, industry, culture, religion, and academia. Interaction among a diverse group of people, including the Imperial Household, court nobles, *samurai* warriors, temples and shrines, and artisans and merchants has created a deep culture. Kyoto as a former capital city and its culture have survived to the present day by flexibly responding to the changing times and overcoming disasters, which have laid the foundation for the cultural capital of Japan, Kyoto.

## The history and culture of Kyoto City

### **Determination to continuously take a new path while handing down the history and culture to future generations**

### International feature

#### **Kyoto connected to the world**

While cherishing its tradition, Kyoto has created a unique culture of excellence and developed itself by embracing foreign culture and technologies. At the same time, the culture of Kyoto, where tradition and innovation coexist, has also spread beyond the city to the whole country and the world. The constant exchange of people, goods, and information between Kyoto and the world has formed the foundation of the creative cultural capital, Kyoto.

### Symbolic feature

#### **A symbol of Japanese history and culture**

Kyoto has played a central role in Japanese history and still embodies the history and culture of Japan as an eyewitness of history. Just as Mt. Fuji is a symbol of Japanese nature, Kyoto is a symbol of Japanese history and culture. Being a representative historical city of Japan constitutes the core of Kyoto's identity and is the pride of its citizens, imparting a strong influence on their way of life.

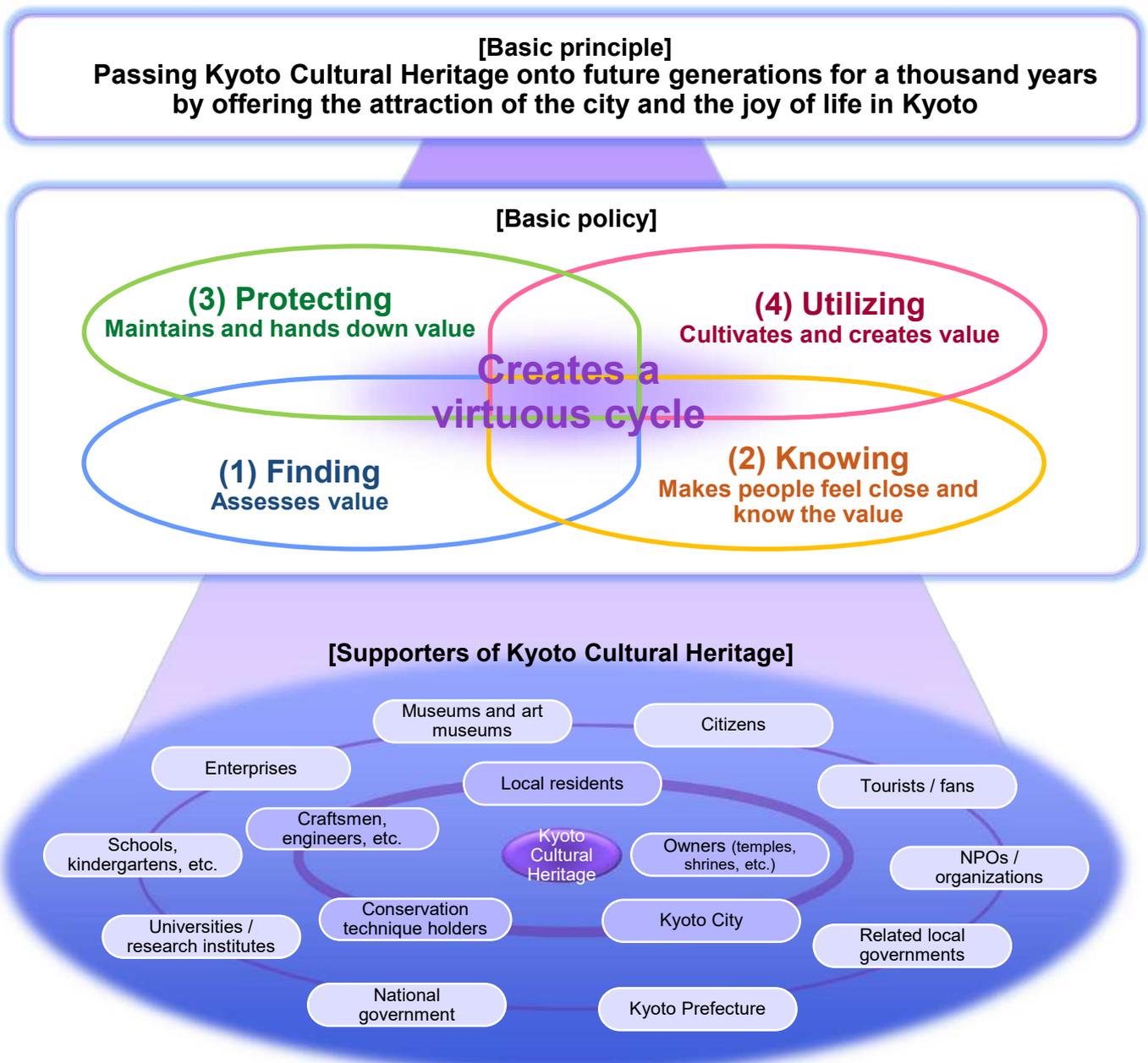
# Policy on the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

Kyoto Cultural Heritage is the source of the history and culture of Kyoto City. Carefully protecting and handing it down laid the foundation for the creative development of Kyoto.

Therefore, we should have many people, including the citizens, enjoy the city and life therein. By doing so, they can become familiar with and come to understand Kyoto Cultural Heritage. It is important to support the Heritage with the whole society by fostering love for Kyoto through such measures.

In this plan, we set **“Passing Kyoto Cultural Heritage onto future generations for a thousand years by offering the attraction of the city and the joy of life in Kyoto”** as the basic principle. We also formulated the basic policy of **“Finding,” “Knowing,” “Protecting,”** and **“Utilizing.”** We will suggest specific measures and share them with many stakeholders, strongly taking necessary actions over the next 10 years.

In addition, we will create a more virtuous cycle that will lead to the sustainable maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage by coordinating and integrating various initiatives.



## (1) Finding — Assessing the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

We will promote surveys on Kyoto Cultural Heritage, which can be found everywhere in Kyoto and is still relatively unknown to the public, in collaboration with various stakeholders: its owners; universities and research institutes that conduct research on the history and culture in Kyoto; enterprises and entities that communicate the hidden attractions of Kyoto; and citizens of diverse backgrounds. In doing so, we will create new attractions of the historical city of Kyoto.

### A Promotion of surveys on Kyoto Cultural Heritage

- (1) Promoting planned surveys on Kyoto Cultural Heritage
- (2) Conducting examinations for surveys on Kyoto Cultural Heritage
- (3) Promoting record preservation of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

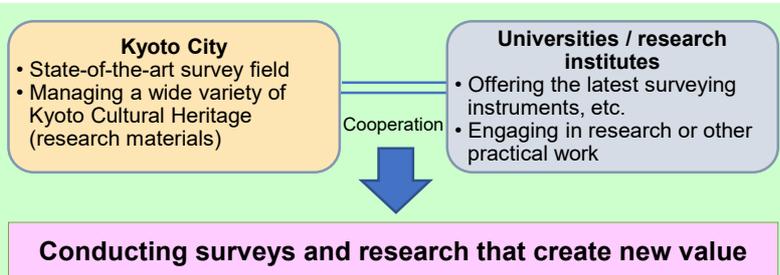
### B Promotion of surveys and research in cooperation with citizens of diverse backgrounds, universities, companies, etc.

- (1) Promoting the discovery of Kyoto Cultural Heritage by citizens
- (2) Sharing information and promoting joint surveys and research with universities, museums, companies, etc.
- (3) Promoting organizing, listing, and disclosing excavated artifacts and ancient documents, etc.

### Priority measures for “Finding” (Example 1)

#### Cultural property creation project for a better future

More closely cooperating with universities and other research institutes that conduct research on Kyoto Cultural Heritage, etc., Kyoto City will promote surveys and research to create new attractions of the historical city of Kyoto.



## (2) Knowing — Feeling close to Kyoto Cultural Heritage and coming to know its value

Kyoto Cultural Heritage comprises lifestyle-related culture, such as local festivals, Kyoto cuisine, and kimono, and historical buildings and archaeological sites that we can easily encounter while walking. It is familiar to the citizens from children to the elderly and enriches their lives. We will understand the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage and share it with the citizens and many other stakeholders.

### A Enhanced initiatives to deepen citizen’s understanding of the importance of their own individual efforts to protect Kyoto Cultural Heritage

- (1) Disseminating the proper value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage
- (2) Promoting efforts to convey the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage to local residents more deeply in an easy-to-understand manner
- (3) Promoting efforts to have the next generation discover and recognize anew the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

### B Enhanced initiatives to enable people of more diverse backgrounds to support the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

- (1) Disseminating information on Kyoto Cultural Heritage domestically and internationally to broaden the base of people who are interested in it
- (2) Disseminating the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage utilizing the accumulated history of Kyoto
- (3) Enhancing information dissemination in cooperation with museums, lifelong learning facilities, etc.
- (4) Enhancing efforts to have people become more actively involved in the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

### Priority measures for “Knowing” (Example 2)

#### Enhancement of Kyoto City Cultural Properties Books and Research Bulletin of the Kyoto City Cultural Properties Preservation Section

By posting the results of this plan and other means, we will enhance the contents of the *Kyoto City Cultural Properties Books* and the *Research Bulletin of the Kyoto City Cultural Properties Preservation Section*, where the research findings of surveys on Kyoto Cultural Heritage are published.



### (3) Protecting — Maintaining and handing down the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

We will preserve valuable cultural properties, which convey more than 1,200 years of the history of Kyoto to date, as a symbol of the historical city. At the same time, we will hand down Kyoto Cultural Heritage, which is combined with the local communities and lifestyles and enhances the attractions of the historical city of Kyoto, to future generations as a part of our community development.

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| A | Promotion of the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage  |
|   | (1) Promoting the designation, etc. of Kyoto Cultural Heritage as Cultural Properties  |
|   | (2) Supporting the owners, etc. of Kyoto Cultural Heritage   |
|   | (3) Supporting the preservation and utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage by notifications, etc. from private businesses                    |
|   | (4) Promoting efforts to improve technologies related to Kyoto Cultural Heritage   |
| B | Promotion of the preservation and conservation of cultural properties and facilities for the display of cultural properties, etc.            |
|   | (1) Promoting the repair works, etc. of cultural properties and facilities for the display of cultural properties                            |
|   | (2) Conducting examinations to secure facilities for the preservation of Kyoto Cultural Heritage   |
|   | (3) Conserving Natural Monuments   |
| C | Securement of financial resources for the preservation of Kyoto Cultural Heritage and reduction in long-term management costs                |
|   | (1) Supporting the securement of financial resources through the utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage                                      |
|   | (2) Promoting repair works of cultural properties based on an appropriate cycle  |
|   | (3) Securing new financial resources and discussing financing methods, etc.  |
| D | Securement of supporters of Kyoto Cultural Heritage  |
|   | (1) Providing a place for supporters of Kyoto Cultural Heritage to cooperate and exchange information with each other                        |
|   | (2) Fostering supporters of Kyoto Cultural Heritage  |
|   | (3) Discussing systems to assist and honor supporters of Kyoto Cultural Heritage   |
| E | Inheritance of businesses for livelihoods and the skills of craftsmen that support lifestyle-related culture                                 |
|   | (1) Securing resources, etc. that support Kyoto Cultural Heritage  |
|   | (2) Promoting the stable industrialization of technologies, etc. related to Kyoto Cultural Heritage  |
|   | (3) Discussing measures to revitalize traditional culture and manufacturing in cooperation with production areas inside and outside the city |
| F | Enhancement of disaster, fire, and crime prevention measures   |
|   | (1) Promoting fire and disaster prevention measures in collaboration with the citizens and communities                                       |
|   | (2) Discussing measures to be taken when cultural properties are damaged by a disaster   |
|   | (3) Promoting crime prevention measures for cultural properties  |

#### Priority measures for “Protecting” (Example 3)

#### Promoting the repair works, etc. of cultural properties and facilities for the display of cultural properties

Ninomaru-goten Palace of Nijo-jo Castle  
(Nakagyo Ward, National Treasure, Important Cultural Properties)



We will achieve planned repair and maintenance works of Nijo-jo Castle, Murin-an, and other cultural properties. At the same time, we will preserve and utilize each cultural property and facility for the display of cultural properties from the perspective of rooting them in the lives of citizens.

Repair works on Honmaru-goten Palace of Nijo-jo Castle



## (4) Utilizing — Cultivating and creating the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

In Kyoto, with a central focus on Kyoto Cultural Heritage, each area is working on community development by tapping into their local uniqueness. Based on this fact, we aim to enhance the value of Kyoto as a historical city to enrich the lives of citizens by utilizing Kyoto Cultural Heritage for the revitalization of communities, or incorporating it into the lives of citizens.

### A Widespread utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

- (1) Fostering awareness of the proper utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage
- (2) Spreading ways of utilization that lead to understanding of the history and culture of Kyoto

### B Creation of cultural, social and economic value through the utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

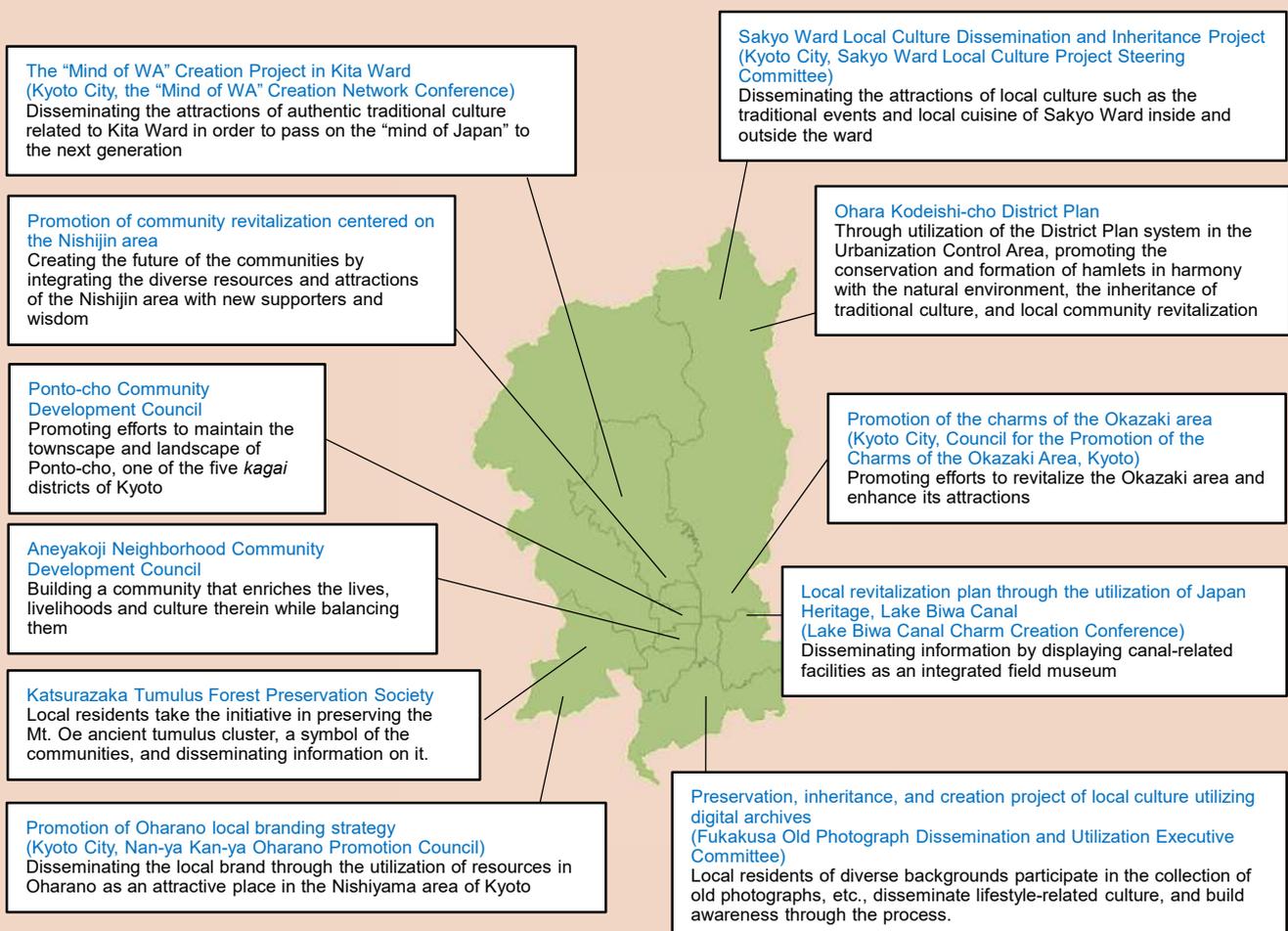
- (1) Promoting the preservation and utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage according to the respective characteristics
- (2) Maintaining Kyoto Cultural Heritage and its surrounding environment in an integrated manner
- (3) Promoting cooperation with various stakeholders to bring out the diverse values of Kyoto Cultural Heritage
- (4) Citizen-centered community development through the utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage in each area

### Priority measures for “Utilizing” (Example 4)

#### Promotion of the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage as a part of community development

In Kyoto, there is a movement whereby local residents take the initiative in promoting the active utilization of Kyoto Cultural Heritage.

By supporting such an effort, we will lead the sustainable maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage as well as contribute to the revitalization of local communities.

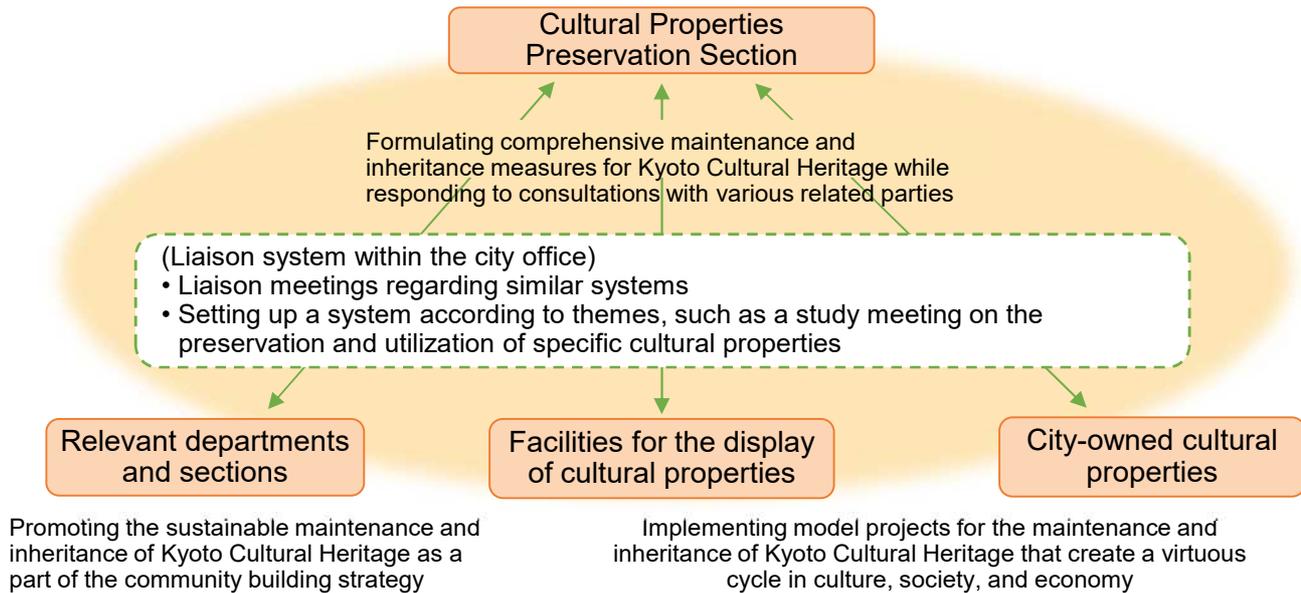


# Plan promotion system

## (1) Plan promotion system of Kyoto City

The Cultural Properties Preservation Section, which has accumulated expertise and experience regarding Kyoto Cultural Heritage, will take the initiative in promoting efforts by the city and formulate a comprehensive plan to maintain and hand down Kyoto Cultural Heritage. At the same time, the relevant departments, sections and ward offices will also tackle the sustainable maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage as a part of their community building strategy, and implement model projects for the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage in cultural properties, facilities for the display of cultural properties, etc. that are managed by the city.

We will also establish a liaison system within the city office according to themes, including liaison meetings between the departments and sections in charge of similar systems regarding historical buildings, etc., and study meetings on the preservation and utilization of specific cultural properties. Under such systems, relevant departments and sections will promote necessary efforts in cooperation with each other.



## (2) Establishment of a promotion system by various stakeholders

### A. Cooperating with various related parties

In Kyoto City, many activities regarding Kyoto Cultural Heritage are conducted by various related parties: owners and successors of Kyoto Cultural Heritage such as temples and shrines; technique holders; community development entities; universities and research institutes; museums and art museums; business circles and the tourist industry; educational institutions; and other parties.

We will build an optimal system for the promotion of plans regarding diverse Kyoto Cultural Heritage in cooperation with other stakeholders, depending on the characteristics, situations, and measures to be taken, thereby enhancing the relevant systems and facilities.

### B. Establishing a foundation for various stakeholders to take the initiative in the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage

In order to enable more people to become supporters of Kyoto Cultural Heritage who can maintain and hand it down in a sustainable manner in their daily lives, each of us has to utilize the value of Kyoto Cultural Heritage in enriching the lives of the citizens by demonstrating our creativity in our related efforts and closer cooperation with each other.

Therefore, Kyoto City will take measures based on this plan as well as laying the foundation for the maintenance and inheritance of Kyoto Cultural Heritage that can be participated in by various stakeholders in a proactive manner, thereby striving to promote the plan more actively.

## Progress management and evaluation of the plan

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In promoting this plan, the progress shall be evaluated periodically from various perspectives, including the creation of a virtuous cycle and efficient implementation.

We will conduct a self-evaluation on the progress annually and schedule to undertake an interim evaluation in the 5th year and the final evaluation in the 10th year.

Since this plan should be conducted in cooperation and collaboration with diverse stakeholders, we will work on it flexibly while reviewing it, responding to the results of the progress evaluation and social changes. When we review and revise the plan, it shall be certified again by the national government except for minor changes.



## Cultural properties inheritance plan for a better future -Kyoto City Regional Plan for the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Properties-

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