

PRESS RELEASE

For release on or after October 7, 2013

October 7, 2013

For more information contact:

Saori Nagase, Consul
culture@nv.mofa.go.jp

Japanese Government Awards the New Orleans Museum of Art

On July 31, 2013, the **Foreign Minister's Commendation** (*Gaimudaijin Hyosho Award*) was awarded to the **New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA)** by Mr. Fumio Kishida, Foreign Minister of Japan. NOMA is recognized for its outstanding achievements in promoting friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and Louisiana through artistic, cultural and educational programs.

In addition to providing the people of Louisiana opportunities to appreciate Japanese art through the museum's extensive Japanese art collection, NOMA has also held numerous Japan-related special events ranging from a Kabuki performance to an exhibition and symposium about Japanese painting to a traditional Japanese clothing fashion show. They have also worked to partner with organizations in Japan in support of art programs for children recovering from natural disasters. NOMA's most remarkable contribution to promoting friendship in this area is the annual **Japan Fest** held at the museum. NOMA has been involved with Japan Fest as it has evolved to be the largest Japan-related event in Louisiana. Japan Fest helps to bring all the people in the community together as they enjoy Japanese culture, performances and other activities.

The Foreign Minister's Commendation was introduced in 1983 to honor those who have acted with distinction in the promotion of friendly relations with foreign countries and international cooperation. The annual conferment ceremony for the honor coincides with the commemoration of the establishment of the Foreign Ministry, which was founded on July 8, 1869.

Consul-General Motohiko Kato will travel to New Orleans to present NOMA their award on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The conferment ceremony will be held on October 12 at a reception for invited guests following the annual Japan Fest celebrations at the museum.

[END]