



Buddhist Church of Oakland

December 20, 2025

Dear Sangha Members and Friends of the Buddhist Church of Oakland,

We hope this letter finds you well and embraced in the light of the Dharma.

On October 17, 2026, the Buddhist Church of Oakland will celebrate its 125th anniversary. This milestone occasion is a time to reminisce, express gratitude, and look into the future with hope and excitement.

Beginning with the Issei (1st generation Japanese) pioneers, let us reflect upon and honor our history and the past ministers, Sangha families, and members who came before us. It was through their sacrifices, foresight, and dedication that BCO was built as a center of spiritual guidance and support that we are able to appreciate today.

The 125th anniversary also is an opportunity to look to the future. We have a collective responsibility to help ensure that BCO will continue to be a place to encounter, hear and embrace the Dharma for our families, communities, and for future generations.

Commemoration of Our 125th Anniversary

Rev. Bridge, Rev. Endo, the church Board, the Finance Committee, and the 125th planning committee, discussed and selected several renovation and beautification projects focused in the Hondo and main church building to commemorate our 125th. Please see the attached list of these projects.

These temple projects were thoughtfully chosen to significantly improve our temple facilities that will benefit our entire Sangha community as we look to our future. Together, we can all share in the enjoyment of these renovations and improvements.

Initiation of a Fundraising Campaign

To undertake these projects, we are initiating a fundraising campaign. While the total cost to complete these projects is approximately \$720,000, we are already off to a wonderful start!

We wish to thank the Board of Directors for approving funds from the Eitaikyo Fund to pay for a large portion of the onajin restoration costs. Additionally, we are very fortunate to have received generous lead donations earmarked for some of the other projects. To date we have received approximately \$220,000. As a result, our fundraising goal is \$500,000.

These projects will largely be staged over the course of 2026 and beyond, based on the scope of the project and church calendar. Without a special campaign, we would not be able to take on these projects through our normal fundraising activities.

We Need Your Help!

For us to reach our goal, we need everyone's help. We believe we can reach our goal through a gift request of \$800 from individual members and friends of the church and \$1,600 per couple.

If you can, please consider giving more than the suggested gift levels. If you are unable to contribute at the suggested levels, please consider a gift at your comfort level. We are deeply grateful for your gifts at any level.

How Can I Provide a Gift

There are various ways to provide your gift and support.

- By check – Please make the check out to the Buddhist Church of Oakland. Be sure to include 125th Anniversary in the "memo" section at the bottom of the check.
- By credit card – Using a credit card can be done (1) in person at church or (2) online on the Buddhist Church of Oakland website; <https://buddhistchurchofoakland.org/125thcampaign> - Easy navigation and links are set up.

We respectfully request your help to reach out to your family members, adult children, and friends who have or have had a relationship with BCO and who would be interested in supporting our fundraising campaign. This would be an opportunity to designate a gift "in honor of" or "in memory of," for example, for grandparents ("baachan" and "jiichan"), parents, other close family members, or other special individuals in your life. We would like to acknowledge gifts in this way, so please make a notation on your check or online payment.

Gifts may be pledged over a two-year period and can be made on a recurring basis over the course of one or two years using a credit card or through your financial institution. If you have questions, the church office may be able to provide some general guidance.

Rooted in Community Through Generations

BCO is not just a place or a location of a Buddhist church - BCO embodies deeply connected, diverse communities, rooted in tradition, relationships, and in the values of interdependence, gratitude, and appreciation

Your generous support and assistance of this fundraising campaign are vital to ensure our children, family members, and future generations have a place and a community to hear the Nembutsu and carry the Dharma forward. Your gift will make a real difference.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

In Gassho,



Rev. Bridge



Rev. Michael Endo



Keiju Terada



Jon Takagaki



Peggy Takahashi

Attachment
 Buddhist Church of Oakland
 125th Anniversary
 Renovation and Beautification Projects

Project	Status	Approx. Cost
Restoration and beautification of two sections of the Onaijin altars	Middle and right sections of altar sent to Japan in Feb. 2025. Target date for return is Feb. 2026.	\$200,000
Installation of HVAC system	Contract to do work signed in Oct. 2025. Preparation of detailed drawings/plans underway.	\$245,000
Renovate women's, men's, all gender restrooms on 1 st floor; renovate and reconfigure restroom on 2 nd floor to make it disability compliant	Early planning stages. Work will commence in 2026.	\$200,000 (represents funding to kick-off project; total cost estimate anticipated to be higher.
Re-upholster pews and refinish wood framing	Work to be completed over summer 2026.	\$52,500
Refinish floors under pews	Work to be completed at same time as pews are refurbished.	\$8,500
Remove carpet on onaijin and refinish hardwood floor	Enhance beauty of the onaijin and reflect traditional temple onaijin.	\$3,500
Replace chairs in social hall	Current chairs to replace metal ones used outdoors for Bazaar, Obon	\$12,500



125th Anniversary Donation QR Code