



**WORLD MONUMENTS FUND ANNOUNCES \$250,000 GRANT  
TO SUPPORT RESTORATION OF KESENNUMA CULTURAL HERITAGE  
DAMAGED IN GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI**

*For Immediate Release – New York, USA, March 7, 2013...* On the eve of the second anniversary of Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, World Monuments Fund (WMF) announced today a \$250,000 grant to advance the efforts of the local community in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, to restore and preserve its historic cityscape that was damaged in that catastrophic natural disaster. The grant will be presented at a ceremony held at Kesennuma City Hall on March 10.

In Kesennuma, the international public-private cooperation Save Our Culture will undertake the restoration of seven buildings, six of which are designated as Registered Cultural Property by the Japanese Government agency Bunkacho (Agency for Cultural Affairs), and one whose application is pending.

WMF, with support from the Freeman Foundation, is providing the funds to support the Kesennuma KAZAMACHI Cityscape Preservation Association, a local non-profit organization that has been leading restoration efforts at historic structures through collaboration with the Kesennuma city government. Local funding is being provided by The Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research with support from HERMÈS JAPON CO., LTD.

This is WMF's second grant for the preservation of damaged cultural heritage in eastern Japan, following the one made in 2012 to restore seven machiya buildings in the historic town of Sawara, Katori City, Chiba Prefecture, all of which are designated as Cultural Property by the Chiba prefecture government.

Now that Kesennuma's community rebuilding plan has been agreed to, this second grant is intended to raise awareness among the public that support is still urgently needed to help afflicted communities save and repair the damaged cultural heritage sites that have the deepest meaning for the local population.

*(more)*

### **World Monuments Fund**

World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world's most treasured places. For over 45 years, working in more than 90 countries, its highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, WMF inspires an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. [wmf.org](http://wmf.org), [twitter.com/worldmonuments](https://twitter.com/worldmonuments), and [facebook.com/worldmonuments](https://facebook.com/worldmonuments).

### **Save Our Culture (SOC)**

Save Our Culture (SOC) is the International Collaborative Project launched to save cultural heritage damaged by Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 with cooperation from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Bunkacho, and Tokyo University of the Arts. The SOC partners who have either made or committed donations as of today in Japan include (alphabetical order): American Express; Barclays Capital Japan Limited; Barclays Bank PLC, Tokyo Branch; Barclays Capital Fund Solutions Japan Limited; Deutsche Bank Group; Freeman Foundation; HERMÈS JAPON CO., LTD.; J.P. Morgan; Mitsubishi Corporation; Nomura Foundation; Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.; and SOMPO JAPAN FINE ART FOUNDATION.

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