40,000 Years of Culture

People have lived in Chiba Prefecture for about 40,000 years. Remnants of these prehistoric communities have been discovered at archeological sites throughout the prefecture. Among these sites are a great number of ancient tombs and haniwa clay figures that are representative of Chiba’s ancient culture. During the Edo Period, the Hokusou area supported Edo (Tokyo) daily life and economy using transportation on local highways and the Tone River. This led to the development of towns with distinct characteristics, such as the castle town of Sakura, the temple town of Narita, the merchant town of Sawara, and the port town of Choshi. These areas still retain the atmosphere and architecture of the Edo Period, and were certified as Japan Heritage sites in 2016.

Under this economic prosperity, some people including Tadataka Inoh, Moronobu Hishikawa and Nami-no-Nhachi began to spread new cultural ideas. Many of the festivals that are representative of Chiba Prefecture today, have been handed down over generations and are still performed just as they were in the Edo Period.

It has always been the local people who bear our culture. This continues today, as our citizens cooperate and form new NPOs and volunteer groups to preserve and celebrate our cultural assets.

千葉には、約4万年前の先史時代から人が住んでいました。県内各地で当時の人たちが残した遺跡が多く見つかっています。中でも全国屈指の数を誇る古墳やそれに並べられた埴輪は、千葉県の古代文化を特徴づけるものです。

江戸時代、北総は、利根川の水運と街道により江戸のくくりと経済を支え、城下町佐倉、門前町成田、酒田町佐原、港町鎌倉など特色ある都市が発展し、今も江戸を感じる町並みが見られます（平成28年度日本遺産認定）。

経済的繁栄の背景に、伊能忠敬や、菱川師宣、江の伊八など、数々の文化人が登場するのもこの頃です。県内各地に伝わる千葉県の代表的なお祭りは、江戸時代にはすでに今のような形で行われていたと言われています。

文化的な担い手は、常にそこに暮らす人々でした。今でも、県民が、NPOやボランティア団体を結成し、文化活動を積極的に展開しています。
Historic Contributions 世界に誇る歴史的文化人

Hishikawa Moronobu (c.1630-1694)
Hishikawa is said to be the father of Japan’s Ukiyo-e style of art. His masterpiece, ‘Mikaeri bijin’, was famously used on a Japanese postal stamp.

Inō Tadataka (1745-1818)
Though he did not learn surveying until age 55, Inō traversed the entire country by foot, making the first map of Japan that was accurate to modern surveying standards.

伊能忠敬
55歳から測量術を学び、江戸時代中期に、初めて実測による正確な日本地図を作製しました。

Nami-no-iachi (1752-1824)
Nami-no-iachi’s dramatic wood carvings of the waves of Chiba’s Sotobō coast reportedly influenced Katsushika Hokusai, one of Japan’s most well-known artists.

波の伊八（初代：武忠伊八郎信行）
外観の荒海のような「波」の浮き彫りが特徴。『富嶽三十六景』で有名な画師北斎に影響を与えられたとされています。

Preserving, Celebrating, and Creating Anew
先人が守り育ててきた伝統を受け継ぎ、新たな文化を紡ぎ出す

At Boso-no-Mura, an open-air museum near Nanta, visitors explore life-size reconstructions of local homes and buildings from the Edo (1603-1867) and Meiji (1868-1912) Periods, and experience traditional activities like weaving, paper-making, old-style cooking, or even trying on samurai armor.

「房総のむら」では、江戸時代や明治時代の建物が忠実に再現されています。甲冑の着用や、農家では織り織り、商家では鲭魚料理作りや薬味、髭すきなど、昔の生活文化を実際に体験できます。

The Chiba Symphony Orchestra is the only professional orchestra in Chiba. In addition to classical pieces, it offers a new way to enjoy the orchestra by performing with the traditional Japanese art Noh.

「千葉交響楽団」は、千葉県唯一的プロオーケストラです。クラシック曲のほか、日本の伝統芸能「能楽」と共演するなど、オーケストラの新たな魅力づくりにも挑戦しています。

Noh Quartet, Aobanomori Park Art and Culture Hall
「能楽×四重奏」青葉の森芸術文化ホール