



TAIKO COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

History of TCA

Taiko has been a presence in North America for over 50 years. Early pioneers were active in the Asian American civil rights movement of the 60's and 70's. These same pioneers, alongside other leaders in the taiko community first conceived of Taiko Community Alliance (TCA) as a means to sustain the North American Taiko Conference (NATC). The conference began in 1997 and was planned and hosted by the JACCC of Los Angeles. By 2011, the conference had grown so large that JACCC could no longer maintain it and their other slate of programs.

To prevent the NATC from dissolving, we hosted the TCA Launch meeting August 23-25, 2013 at the Stanford University Music Department. Participants at this meeting helped shape the core values, guiding principles, governance structure and initial activities of the TCA. Prior to the event, TCA also launched the inaugural Taiko Census which generated almost 1,400 responses.

TCA was the first nonprofit outside of Japan whose mission is to provide art services and resources to taiko practitioners. By 2014, TCA was a fully incorporated nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with the mission to empower the people and advance the art of taiko. TCA seeks to strengthen the network of taiko practitioners in North America, to share traditions and repertoire, to document the history of taiko, and to support the artistic development of the art form.

Shortly after forming, TCA began to support the taiko community not just with conferences and the census, but with a grant program also. TCA Grants began in 2017, and we have since funded over \$100,000 to taiko artists and groups around the world.

By 2020, TCA had hosted three NATCs led by volunteers; it was time to add paid staff. During the pandemic to pivot our programming to virtual offerings, and continue to serve the community with an Emergency Relief Fund, and a virtual conference called Beyond the Drum.

In 2022, TCA continued to strengthen internally with a team of four permanent staff to expand our outreach and our programs. A recent addition to our lineup are regional taiko conferences (NATC-R) in areas we have not been able to directly serve.

For more information please check out our website at taikocommunityalliance.org