

Chibikkobe 2022



"Chibikkobe" is a hands-on educational program that aims to foster the creativity of children in Kobe. In this program, children learn knowledge and skills from professionals in various creative fields, including chefs, architects, and designers. The children work together with adult supporters to create and operate a "kids only" town, in which they set up shops, establish various occupations, and practice shopping. The event develops their creativity by having them learn how society works while having fun. This program has been held about once every two years since 2012, with the 4th instance moved online due to COVID-19. The 5th instance held in 2022 also included a festival-planning workshop in cooperation with art team "tupera tupera". They created unique headgear, clothing, and floats themed around Kobe, and wrapped up the 2022 program with an exciting festival.

"Urbanist in Residence" in Nagata

"Urbanists" are people who don't just live in a community but proactively try to enjoy what the city has to offer while they go about their lives. In the city's "Urbanist in Residence" program, urbanists from all over Japan and the world were invited to stay in Nagata Ward while they engaged in research, exchange, and PR activities. Kobe is the first local government in Japan to run such a program.

Among Kobe's 9 wards, Nagata Ward has the highest percentage of aging residents and abandoned buildings, so there are many administrative issues concerning it. Yet on the other hand, in recent years there have been many instances of artists and creatives solving local issues and increasing the neighborhoods' attractiveness through their creative activities, so it can be said that many urbanists are already involved with Nagata Ward. Urbanists directly interacted with local spaces, conducted research on Nagata's unique characteristics and charms, created opportunities for exchange, and promoted these activities. Through these efforts, they demonstrated their creativity and tried to help grow the number of people who live and become involved in the community.



With an urban experience design studio "for Cities"

KOBE Re:Public Art Project

Kobe has a diverse landscape including the mountains, the sea, urban centers, and old downtowns. As an experimental attempt to create a new form of public art, 23 teams of artists from different fields came to stay and do research in these different areas. They held a number of events, primarily in the harbor area.

This project aimed to create new value in the local community, as well as identify new attractions that will bring people to Kobe. In addition to performances and artwork exhibits, Kobe's charms were promoted by devising excursions of places that the artists researched.



Alien Species Institute



The Alien Species Institute is the first local government-run center for raising awareness of invasive species issues.

Invasive alien species threaten the biodiversity of an area, and they also have negative impacts such as health problems in humans and crop damage. However, most people have few chances to see invasive species firsthand and understand their associated problems.

The Alien Species Institute offers visitors an in-depth education on invasive alien species. The facility features live exhibits of red-eared slider turtles, largemouth bass, and other animals, as well as taxidermied exhibits of raccoons, nutria, etc. Visitors can also listen to detailed explanations by specialists, understand the invasive species issue through informational panels and videos, and learn through hands-on activities such as Alien Species quizzes.

We hope you will visit the Alien Species Institute someday.

Kobe Next Farmers system

Kobe City eased restrictions so that participants of the training program (about 100 hours total) can lease small plots of farmland between 100 to 1,000 square meters. Through the creation of this system, citizens can start agricultural activities while still working at their regular jobs.

By creating a wide range of opportunities for people to become familiar with farming, we will inspire more people to consider relocating to rural neighborhoods, as well as foster another type of successor to a variety of agricultural activities. This will help prevent further occurrences of abandoned farmland, and lead to the new future of farming.



Official Kobe City blog on "note"

In September 2022, Kobe City started a PR project in which city employees wrote articles providing anecdotes and thoughts behind the development of city policies and projects.

Before this, people had difficulty understanding - or simply did not know about - how the city government's policies and projects were progressing after they were launched. So we started a new method of PR using the blogsite "note" in order to properly share this information, using words and images that made the topics easier to understand and feel more approachable. We are conveying the Kobe of now while placing great care in the understandability, approachability, and speediness of our PR content.

