

Proclamation of Arakawa, the City of Haiku

“The spring is passing – the birds all mourn and fishes’ eyes are wet with tears” ※Tr. Chilcott

In May, 1689, Matsuo Bashō composed this poem, the first haiku, as he set out on his journey on the Oku no Hosomichi (“*The Narrow Road to the Interior*”). Bashō crossed the Senju Ōhashi Bridge, which leads from Edo (Tōkyō) towards the interior of the Tōhoku region. Spanning the Sumida River, this bridge invites us into the world of haiku, and will continue to do for future generations.

In this city we live in, many people come and go, guided by Bashō’s thoughts and the beauty of each season. Kobayashi Issa, Masaoka Shiki, and Taneda Santōka also composed haiku here in Arakawa.

Within the endless possibilities of 5-7-5, coming together to form the 17 syllables in a haiku, we have the ability to:

Express our thoughts

Create and innovate new things

Connect with the hearts of people around the world

As a bridge connecting the appeal of haiku with future generations, Arakawa City will spread haiku culture to young and old, and promises to impart the rich spirit of haiku onto the future. We hereby proclaim this city as, “Arakawa, the City of Haiku”.

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