Imagine this....

Let’s revitalize Mukai’s Fruit Barrelling* Plant

-to be the home of Vashon’s new Local Food Hub
-adding to Mukai’s vibrancy for island events and commerce
-celebrating our Japanese American and agricultural heritage

*Original spelling used

The Mukai Farm & Garden: How History Lives
The vision

- Local, agricultural-based tenants preserving food for all of us
- A community commercial kitchen
- Exhibits highlighting historic, cultural and social justice issues
- The loading dock — a performance stage for outdoor events
- Meeting space for local groups
- Cultural tourism destination

The final piece of the restoration of the Mukai Farm & Garden

The Vision

BD Mukai had an idea...

In 1926, Japanese immigrants B.D. and Kuni Mukai, through their American born son Masa, bought 40 acres of Vashon farmland to farm and preserve strawberries. They immediately built the Cold Process Fruit Barrelling Plant where they processed tons of berries annually for shipping across the U.S. The business thrived, employing over 400 people a year, even during the Depression. In 1942, with passage of Executive order 9066, the family fled to eastern Oregon. When they returned in 1946 after the end of WWII, the farm had lost momentum. Everything had changed.

Today Mukai Farm & Garden is a testament to our community’s vision, courage and tenacity

In 2016, Friends of Mukai gained control of the five remaining acres of the farm; it was in ruin. One of the last remaining pre-WWI Japanese American farms left in the U.S., it was at risk of disappearing forever.

The community rallied! To date, we have raised over $2 million from public and private partners to fully restore the Mukai home, surrounding Japanese Garden, help purchase the Fruit Barrelling Plant parcel and stabilize it to prevent its collapse. Except for the Plant, all parts of the Farm are widely enjoyed by the entire community. For now, the historic but deteriorating Barrelling Plant, with all its stories, must be shuttered to the public.

We’ve come a long way

Today, Mukai Farm and Garden is a community gathering place; visitors enjoy public festivals, cultural programs, and special events throughout the year. Our signature Japanese Festival in the fall draws over 2000 people. The Mukai house is open for docents supported tours during business hours. The Japanese garden is free of charge, from dawn to dusk daily.

Friends of Mukai now seeks close to $2 million to restore the Fruit Barreling Plant to its pre-WWII glory. With its restoration, ALL parts of Mukai will finally be available to the public for an expanding array of activities. A restored and occupied Fruit Barreling Plant, as the Vashon Local Food Hub, will draw even wider audiences to Mukai, fulfilling our longstanding dream.
**National Significance**

Mukai Farm & Garden is among the last surviving Japanese farmsteads in the US, left to tell the powerful and poignant story of an immigrant farming family building a successful life in spite of virulent anti-Japanese discrimination.

**Public and Private Partnerships**

As a volunteer-driven 501C3 non-profit, Friends of Mukai will work with public and private partners to raise funds through grants and private contributions. Parts of the restored Fruit Barrelling Plant be used to expand Mukai’s interpretive and performance space for education, and parts will be leased to organizations aligned with our mission.

**Part of a Financially Sustainable Future**

A portion of the restored Fruit Barrelling Plant will be used to expand Mukai’s interpretive and community spaces. The remainder will be leased to local farm businesses as part of the new Food Hub. This rental revenue will provide important continuity to Mukai’s fiscal health.

**A VIBRANT FUTURE**

Attend an outdoor musical performance or play staged from the Barrelling Plant’s expansive loading dock.

Attend a farm-to-table dinner on the loading dock, hosted by local Food Hub farmers.

Learn to preserve berries at a workshop held in the Barrelling Plant’s commercial kitchen.

Use the Food Hub’s equipment to process your summer bounty.

Appreciate powerful exhibits throughout the Barrelling Plant that tell the story of the Japanese farming community on Vashon, nearly erased by the event of WWII.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

- Capital campaign underway
- Ongoing meetings with identified tenants
- Schematic designs complete, May 2024
- Construction bids solicited and contractor selected fall 2024
- Construction, April to September 2025
- Vashon Local Food Hub opening, fall harvest 2025

**THE RESTORATION BRINGS MANY COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Your financial support is needed!

To make a donation, visit [www.mukaifarmandgarden.org](http://www.mukaifarmandgarden.org)

Help bring the Mukai Fruit Barrelling Plant back!!

*How History Lives*
ABOUT FRIENDS OF MUKAI

Since 2012, Friends of Mukai has worked to secure and preserve the Mukai house, garden and fruit barrel-ling plant—all constructed almost 90 years ago. As stewards of the historic Mukai Farm & Garden, Friends of Mukai works to interpret and celebrate the history of Mukai Farm, island agriculture, gardening in the Japanese tradition, the 100 years of Japanese presence on Vashon, and social justice, with a focus on immigrants from all nations.

Restored and maintained by the nonprofit Friends of Mukai, Mukai Farm & Garden is on the National Register of Historic Places. This place stands on the ancestral lands of the Swift Water People, who inhabited Vashon-Maury Island for millennia before the arrival of all other settlers.

MUKAI FARM & GARDEN

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