



March 3, 2021  
Keio University

## Launch of Two Flagship Museums on Keio University's Progress and Traditions

### “Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum” “Keio Museum Commons”

This spring, two new museums are set to open on Mita Campus.

“The Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum” will exhibit numerous historical materials and artefacts related to the history of Keio University and its founder Yukichi Fukuzawa, who was at the forefront of the drive toward Japanese modernization through major contributions to scholarship and the private sphere. The museum will be launched in the Old University Library (Important Cultural Property), which was completed in 1912.

“The Keio Museum Commons” is an organization that will serve as a hub to connect the numerous collections of cultural artifacts accumulated by Keio University from across a diverse range of spheres over the course of its 160-year-plus history, as well as the various educational and research activities that underpin these. The art and culture of Keio University will be made accessible to the general public through initiatives such as exhibitions, events, lectures, surveys, research projects, and digital archives, and through the creation of an environment that blurs the boundaries between the analog and digital.

#### 1. Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum

The Keio History Museum does not simply recount the past of a private school. Rather, the history of Keio University and its founder Fukuzawa is taken as epitomizing the journey travelled by modern Japan itself, with the aim of the museum to function as a venue to reflect on why it is we learn, conceptions of public and private ideals, and how we might live our lives.

The permanent exhibition introduces over 100 historical materials and artifacts, which are arranged into four exhibition chapters and changed periodically. Special exhibitions related to Fukuzawa and the history of Keio University are due to be held in the Temporary Exhibition Room several times a year (the first exhibition is scheduled to take place from July this year). Resources including digital content and models have been newly created, and we are devising ways to ensure that each visit to the museum leads to new discoveries. A café will also open on the 1st floor of the facility.

#### Public opening: May 15 (Sat.), 2021

Location : Old University Library 2F, Mita Campus

Facilities: Permanent Exhibition Room, Temporary Exhibition Room (café on 1st floor)

Open to : general public (reservations may be required depending on the situation regarding the spread of COVID-19 [coronavirus disease])

Opening hours: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (free admission)

Days closed: Sundays, public holidays, summer break, year-end and new year's holiday

Exhibition structure:

Chapter of Vigor

The Beginnings of Fukuzawa Yukichi's Journey

Chapter of Courage with Wisdom

The Creation of Civilization and the Power of Learning

Chapter of Independence and Self-respect

The Dignity and Anguish as a Private Institution

Chapter of Human Relationships

Man and Woman, Family, Gijuku, Society



Permanent Exhibition Room of Keio History Museum

Main items exhibited at time of opening: photograph of Fukuzawa with a young girl taken at a photo studio in San Francisco; letter addressed to Fukuzawa from Katsu Kaishu (“The decision as to what to do is mine” [行蔵は我に存す]); woodblocks of works by Fukuzawa and pirated copies that prompted the institutionalization of copyrights in Japan; first record of a public speaking event in Japan; written challenge sent by Waseda University that gave rise to the tradition of Waseda-Keio baseball games; manuscripts left by students who died on the front lines; Japan's first baby stroller (Fukuzawa's souvenir from the USA); examination guidelines for the first self-recommended admission in Japan; etc.

Please visit <https://history.keio.ac.jp/> for details.

## 2. Keio Museum Commons

Keio University has formed numerous collections of cultural artifacts across a diverse range of spheres throughout its 160-year-plus history. The Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) is an organization that will serve as a hub that connects Keio University's collections and the various educational and research activities that underpin them.

Located at the newly-constructed Mita Campus East Annex, KeMCo will, with the support of the donated funds and artwork bequeathed by the Century Cultural Foundation, leverage Keio University's advanced IT technologies and expertise to propose new models for museum activities that blur the boundaries between the analog and digital.

Exhibitions rooms, storage rooms, and a creative studio (KeMCo StudI/O) equipped with fabrication equipment have been installed in the East Annex, which will not only host exhibitions and events but will also serve as a venue to expand educational and research activities aimed at both students of the university and its affiliated schools and members of the public. In addition, the “Keio Object Hub,” a portal site for viewing and searching Keio's cultural artifacts, will also be launched to coincide with the grand opening, further increasing the accessibility of art and culture at Keio University to the general public.

**Date of opening to the public: April 19 (Mon.), 2021**

Location: Mita Campus East Annex

(The entrance is located on Sakurada-dori; no access from Mita Campus)

Facilities: 9F Conference Room

8F KeMCo SudI/O (creative studio)

3F Exhibition Floor

1F Entrance Hall

Admission: advance reservations will be required until further notice  
(entry is free of charge)

\*Please visit the KeMCo website from Friday, March 19 on how to make a reservation.

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Opening times and holidays: varies by exhibition

Events and exhibitions:

**① Inaugural event series “Cross-scape”**

April 19 (Mon.)–June 18 (Fri.) 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays

**[Cross-scape 1] Letter-scape: Century Akao Collection, A World of Letters and Figures**

This exhibition portrays the development of the culture of the written word extending beyond geographical locations and historical periods using masterpieces from the newly bequeathed Century Akao Collection and materials accumulated by Keio University, as well as exploring the unfolding scenes which underpin them.

**[Cross-scape 2] Gathering-scape: Bringing Together Keio’s Cultural Assets**

This exhibition will mainly introduce works of graduates or works with a background of personal relationships formed at the university from the collections of cultural artifacts held at Keio.

**② International Symposium “Book-scape: Cultural landscape of Books and the Web of Associations”**

May 29 (Sat.), 2021, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. East Annex 6F G-Lab/Zoom Webinar (English)

This seminar will examine from multiple angles the new viewpoints and cultural landscapes that are formed by books within diverse artistic networks.

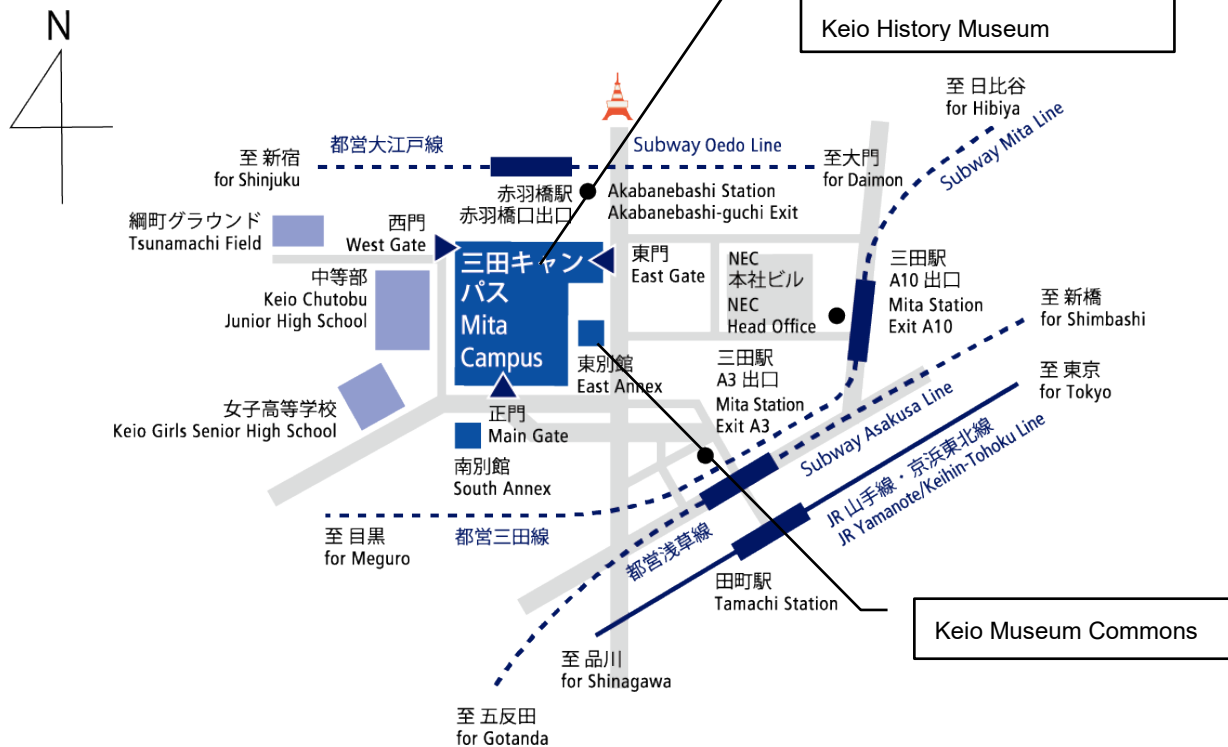
Exhibitions will also be held in collaboration with galleries on Mita Campus as part of the inaugural event series, including the Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum, Keio University Art Center, and the library exhibition rooms.

For details, please visit KeMCo’s website. <http://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>



Exterior of Mita Campus East Annex

[Access to venues]



\*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below in advance of the event.

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